

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website:www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Saturday, November 10, 2012



Gen. David Petraeus testifies during his confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington on June 29, 2010. Petraeus resigned as director of the CIA Nov. 9, 2012, after issuing a statement saying that he had engaged in an extramarital affair.

(Luke Sharrett/The New York Times)

CIA Director Petraeus quits over extramarital affair

CONNIE CASS
KIMBERLY DOZIER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — David Petraeus, the retired four-star general renowned for taking charge of the military campaigns in Iraq and then Afghanistan, abruptly resigned Friday as director of the CIA, admitting to an extramarital affair. The affair was discovered during an FBI investigation, according to officials briefed on the developments. They spoke on condition of anonymity be-

cause they were not authorized to publicly discuss the matter. It was unclear what the FBI was investigating or when it became aware of the affair.

Petraeus' resignation shocked Washington's intelligence and political communities. It was a sudden end to the public career of the best-known general of the post 9/11 wars, a man credited with salvaging the U.S. conflict in Iraq and sometimes mentioned as a potential Republican presidential candidate. His ser-

vice was effusively praised Friday in statements from both Republican and Democratic lawmakers.

Petraeus, who turned 60 on Wednesday, told CIA employees in a statement that he had met with President Barack Obama at the White House on Thursday and asked to be allowed to resign. On Friday, the president accepted.

Petraeus told his staffers he was guilty of "extremely poor judgment" in the affair. "Such behavior is unacceptable, both as a

husband and as the leader of an organization such as ours."

He has been married for 38 years to Holly Petraeus, whom he met when he was a cadet at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. She was the daughter of the academy superintendent. They have two children, and their son led an infantry platoon in Afghanistan.

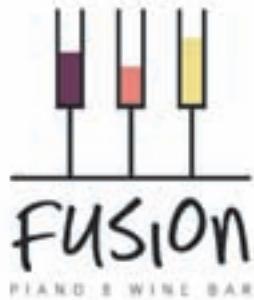
Obama said in a statement that the retired general had provided "extraordinary service to the United States

for decades" and had given a lifetime of service that "made our country safer and stronger." Obama called him "one of the outstanding general officers of his generation."

The president said that CIA Deputy Director Michael Morell would serve as acting director.

Morell was the key CIA aide in the White House to President George W. Bush during the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

Continued on Page 2



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CIA Director Petraeus quits over extramarital affair

Continued from Front Page

"I am completely confident that the CIA will continue to thrive and carry out its essential mission," Obama said.

The resignation comes at a sensitive time. The administration and the CIA have struggled to defend security and intelligence lapses before the attack that

killed the U.S. ambassador to Libya and three others. It was an issue during the presidential campaign that ended with Obama's re-election Tuesday.

The CIA has come under intense scrutiny for providing the White House and other administration officials with talking points that led them to say the Benghazi attack was a result of a film protest, not a militant terror at-

tack. It has become clear that the CIA was aware the attack was distinct from the film protests roiling across other parts of the Muslim world.

Morell rather than Petraeus now is expected to testify at closed congressional briefings next week on the Sept. 11 attacks on the consulate in Benghazi.

For the director of the CIA, being engaged in an extra-



Gen. David Petraeus in his office at the International Security Assistance Force headquarters, in Kabul, Afghanistan, March 8, 2011. Petraeus resigned as director of the CIA Nov. 9, 2012, after issuing a statement saying that he had engaged in an extramarital affair.

(Adam Ferguson/The New York Times)

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marital affair is considered a serious breach of security and a counterintelligence threat. If a foreign government had learned of the affair, the reasoning goes, Petraeus or the person with whom he was involved could have been blackmailed or otherwise compromised. Military justice considers conduct such as an extramarital affair to be possible grounds for court martial.

Failure to resign also could create the perception for the rank-and-file that such behavior is acceptable. At FBI headquarters, spokesman Paul Bresson declined to comment on the information that the affair had been discovered in the course of an investigation by the bureau. Holly Petraeus is known for her work helping military

families. She joined the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to set up an office dedicated to helping service members with financial issues.

Though Obama made no direct mention of Petraeus' reason for resigning, he offered his thoughts and prayers to the general and his wife, saying that Holly Petraeus had "done so much to help military families through her own work. I wish them the very best at this difficult time."

Petraeus, who became CIA director in September 2011, was known as a shrewd thinker and hard-charging competitor. His management style was recently lauded in a Newsweek article by Paula Broadwell, co-author of the biography, "All In: The Education of General David Petraeus." □

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Obama, Boehner make opening moves in tax debate

John H. Cushman Jr.

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WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama and the House speaker, John A. Boehner, circled each other warily on Friday, defending their competing approaches for resolving the budget impasse even as both professed their willingness to reach common ground.

Obama, in his first formal remarks since the night of his re-election, said he would open discussions with congressional leaders next week to seek a compromise, and then, before an applauding crowd of supporters in the White House's East Room, defended the "detailed plan" that he campaigned on — including higher taxes on the wealthy.

"I'm not wedded to every detail of my plan. I am open to compromise. I am open to new ideas," he said. "But I refuse to accept any approach that isn't balanced."

"We have to combine spending cuts with revenue, and that means asking the wealthiest Americans to pay a little more in taxes," he said, calling for Congress to immediately extend existing tax rates for 98 percent of taxpayers.

Boehner, citing a "cordial" conversation with the president on the morning after the election, said that he was "hopeful that productive conversations can begin soon so that we can forge an agreement that can pass the Congress." But he insisted, as the Republicans put it throughout

the campaign, that "the problem with raising tax rates on the wealthiest Americans is that more than half of them are small-business owners." He added, "Raising tax rates will slow down our ability to create the jobs that everyone says they want."

Their dueling appearances seemed almost like a reprise of the debates over tax proposals, which were the sharpest point of division in the presidential election.

Asked if the results of the election had weakened his hand, Boehner said: "There is a Republican majority here in the House. The American people re-elected the Republican majority."

Indeed, his hands are tied partly because members of his party still have a wary eye on the electoral landscape. Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Republican leader and a crucial player in the budget talks, is up for re-election in 2014 and may resist any deal that could foster opposition back home.

But many members of Congress clearly see recent events as creating an opening in the post-election session of Congress, when some retiring and defeated lawmakers could have a freer hand on voting for legislation, absent political consequences.

Republicans were weakened by losing seats in both the House and the Senate, while Democrats

are eager to move to issues like immigration, which animated Latino voters and helped deliver victory on Tuesday.

"The conditions are there to act," Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., said Thursday. "I think the environment is different now."

spending cuts went into force and all the Bush-era tax cuts expired, the nation would slip into recession next year and unemployment would rise to 9.1 percent, from October's rate of 7.9 percent. But simply canceling those deficit-reduction measures would

they needed to give their leaders breathing room and avoid brinkmanship.

"I don't want to box myself in," Boehner said on Friday. "I don't want to box anybody else in. I think it's important for us to come to an agreement with the president. But this is his opportunity to lead."

But the forces arrayed against a budget deal remain powerful, and the gap between the parties — at least in their public postures — is wide. Liberals, backed by Sen.

Harry Reid of Nevada, the Senate majority leader, say Social Security should not be part of any deal.

"House Republicans must end their intransigence on tax cuts for the very wealthy and sit down on a bipartisan basis to finish the work of this Congress," said Rep. Sander M. Levin of Michigan, the ranking Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee, where tax legislation is written.

Boehner said that "by lowering rates and cleaning up the tax code, we know that we're going to get more economic growth." "It'll bring jobs back to America," he said. "It'll bring more revenue."

But a second Congressional Budget Office report released Thursday threw cold water on Republican beliefs that a simplified tax code that lowered income and payroll taxes and closed loopholes to make up for lost revenue would substantially close the deficit by increasing economic growth. □



President Barack Obama speaks, as Vice President Joe Biden looks on, in the East Room of the White House, in Washington, Nov. 9, 2012. Obama said Friday that if a bipartisan agreement was not reached soon on the so-called fiscal cliff that all America's taxes would go up on Jan. 1, 2013, and reiterated that the wealthiest Americans should pay higher taxes.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

One reason is that if Washington were to remain in complete gridlock, all tax brackets would revert automatically to those under President Bill Clinton and spending would be cut automatically across the board — the abrupt changing of economic gears known as the "fiscal cliff" because of its likely economic effects.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office underscored the stakes in a report Thursday that framed Washington's dilemma. It said that if automatic

risk a financial crisis that would make matters worse, the report said.

The report suggested that allowing the Bush-era tax cuts to expire for households earning more than \$250,000 a year — favored by the White House and its Democratic allies, but strenuously opposed by congressional Republicans — would have relatively modest economic effects. Congressional aides said that on a conference call of House Republicans on Thursday, a number of lawmakers spoke up to say

Pentagon moves to silence SEALs about missions

KIMBERLY DOZIER

AP Intelligence Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. military is cracking down on special operations troops who share knowledge of their secret missions for profit, punishing seven Navy SEALs, including one involved in the mission to get Osama bin Laden, who moonlighted as advisers on a combat video game.

Current and former SEALs, including the author of a tell-all book on the bin Laden raid, complain they're getting mixed messages from the military, which likes to see itself on big and small screens on its own terms.

The seven SEALs are being reprimanded and having their pay docked for sharing information with the designers of "Medal of Honor: Warfighter," by video game company EA, according to military officials speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not autho-

rized to discuss the investigations publicly.

The men will remain in the SEAL teams, but were punished for working on the video without their command's permission, revealing classified information by sharing the tactics they use and showing designers some of their specially de-

signed combat equipment unique to their unit, the officials said.

Four more SEALs could face the similar punishment.

The deputy commander of Naval Special Warfare Command, Rear Adm. Garry Bonelli, issued a statement acknowledging that nonjudicial punishments

had been handed out for misconduct, but he did not offer any details.

"We do not tolerate deviations from the policies that govern who we are and what we do as sailors in the United States Navy," Bonelli said.

He said the punishments this week "send a clear message throughout our force that we are and will be held to a high standard of accountability."

The SEALs' unauthorized work came to light as part of the investigation of the book "No Easy Day," by former SEAL Matt Bissonnette, with his firsthand account of the raid that killed bin Laden in Pakistan last year. Publisher Penguin's Dutton Imprint ignored the Pentagon's warnings that the book contained classified information and published the book just ahead of the 11th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

The Pentagon would have a hard time proving the video game makers had disseminated classified information that threatened national security because the combat tactics shown in the game are common to games and action movies, said Mark Zaid, a Washington-based national security attorney who regularly handles cases involving secrecy agreements and classified information.

EA spokesman Peter Nguyen said the company has no plans to recall "Medal of Honor: Warfighter," and there are "no plans to alter the content contributed by combat veterans in the game." He would not elaborate.

"EA didn't break any rules," said Michael Pachter of Wedbush Securities, an investment firm that follows video game companies. "It's not against the law for them to ask questions." □



This product image provided by Electronic Arts shows action from the video game "Medal of Honor: Warfighter." Seven members of the secretive Navy SEAL Team 6, including one involved in the mission to kill Osama bin Laden, have been punished for allegedly divulging classified information to the maker of the game, senior Navy officials said Thursday, Nov. 8, 2012.

(AP Photo/Electronic Arts)

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Husband held in killing of Iraqi-American woman

ELLIOT SPAGAT

Associated Press

EL CAJON, California (AP)

— The husband of an Iraqi-American woman whose beating death initially raised fears of a hate crime was arrested on suspicion of murder in what police described Friday as an act of domestic violence.

Kassim Alhimidi, 48, was taken into custody Thursday after being called into the police station, said El Cajon Police Chief Jim Redman. The killing of 32-year-old Shaima Alawadi drew international attention in March when the couple's 17-year-old daughter told reporters that she found a note by her mother's bludgeoned body that read: "Go back to your country, you terrorist."

Redman said there were no other suspects. He declined to comment on the evidence or elaborate on a possible motive.

"Criminal investigations build, evidence builds, and you reach a point

where you have enough evidence to move forward, and that's what happened in this case," he said.

Alhimidi went to Iraq for about two weeks to bury his wife and returned voluntarily, Redman said. Police did not try to prevent him

from leaving the country because he was not a suspect at the time.

At the burial in Najaf, relatives wept uncontrollably. Alhimidi and the 17-year-old daughter, Fatima, fainted as the body was lowered into the grave.



Kassim Alhimidi, right, speaks alongside his son, Mohammed Alhimidi, during a memorial for his wife, Shaima Alawadi at a mosque in Lakeside, Calif. Southern California police have arrested the husband of the Iraqi-American woman whose beating death last March initially raised fears of a hate crime. El Cajon police Chief Jim Redman said Friday that Kassim al-Himidi was booked on suspicion of murder in the death of 32-year-old Shaima Alawadi in her home.

(AP Photo/Gregory Bull)

Kassim Alhimidi was publicly silent for six days after the body was found, while his children grieved openly with reporters.

In his first public remarks — made at a news conference at the family's mosque in Lakeside — he demanded to know what motivated the killer.

"The main question we would like to ask is what are you getting out of this and why did you do it?" Alhimidi said in Arabic as his 15-year-old son translated. Alhimidi also urged anyone with information to contact law enforcement and thanked the Iraqi government for flying his wife's body to Iraq. He declined to answer reporters' questions.

Alhimidi is expected to be arraigned Tuesday, said Tanya Sierra, a spokeswoman for the San Diego County district attorney's office.

She declined to specify charges and didn't know if Alhimidi had an attorney. □



LAPD video shows a suspect accused of raping a mentally disabled woman on a city bus.

(AP Photo)

Arrest made in LA public transit rape

GREG RISLING

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A man was arrested Friday in the rape of a mentally disabled woman aboard a near-empty Los Angeles County bus during rush-hour commute.

Authorities believe Kerry Trotter, 20, boarded the bus with the 18-year-old woman on Wednesday at a stop in suburban Culver City before she was followed to the back of the vehicle and assaulted.

One passenger among the several onboard tried to alert the driver but was unsuccessful, sheriff's officials said without elaborating.

It was the third rape so far this year on county buses that annually carry millions of people.

"This is an extremely rare occurrence," said Marc Littman, a spokesman for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Trotter was booked for investigation of rape and was being held on \$1 million bail, authorities said. It wasn't immediately known if he had retained an attorney.

He has previous convictions for grand theft and possession of a controlled substance, according to online court records.

Sheriff's investigators said they received an anonymous tip that led to Trotter's arrest after an image of the suspected attacker taken by a surveillance camera on the bus was publicly released. □

US high court taking new look at voting rights law

MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court says it will consider eliminating the government's chief weapon against racial discrimination at polling places since the 1960s.

Acting three days after Americans re-elected Barack Obama, the nation's first African-American president, the justices are agreeing Friday to hear a constitutional challenge to the part of the landmark Voting Rights Act that requires all or parts of 16 states with a history of discrimination in voting to get federal approval before making any changes in the way they hold elections.

The high court considered the same issue three years ago, but sidestepped what Chief Justice John Roberts then called "a difficult constitutional question." But on Friday, the Supreme Court said it will consider eliminating the government's chief weapon against racial dis-

crimination at polling places since the 1960s, when suppression of minority voters was still common.

The appeal from Shelby County, Alabama, says state and local governments covered by the law have made significant progress and no longer

should be forced to live under oversight from Washington.

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The high court considered the same issue three years ago but sidestepped what Chief Justice John Roberts then called "a difficult constitutional question."

Since then, Congress has not addressed potential problems identified by the court.

Meanwhile, the law's opponents sensed its vulnerability and filed several new lawsuits.

Addressing those challenges, lower courts have concluded that a history of discrimination and more recent efforts to harm minority voters justify continuing federal oversight. □



President George W. Bush, center, surrounded by members of Congress signing legislation extending for 25 years the Voting Rights Act, on the South Lawn at the White House in Washington. The Supreme Court says it will consider eliminating the government's chief weapon against racial discrimination at polling places since the 1960s.

(AP Photo/Ron Edmonds)



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Assuring the care of a family member with special needs

RON LIEBER

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With each passing election season, the conversations about the cost of government-provided health care and Social Security get more urgent.

But debates about the deserving and the undeserving and the proper level of budgets and taxes tend to gloss over discussion of the disabled – a group of people who have no choice but to hope that the programs don't suffer cuts because they often don't have any way to make up for the cuts.

There are 5.5 million nonelderly adults with disabilities whose health care was covered by Medicaid in 2009, according to a Henry

J. Kaiser Family Foundation estimate using the most recent numbers available. And an estimated 6.9 million nonelderly disabled people receive Social Security payments under the Supplemental Security Income program, according to federal government figures. For every one of those people (and many draw from multiple sources of government aid), there are often several family members helping to sort out the financial side of that relative's care. They navigate a confounding thicket of tasks and rules. On one hand, there's the bureaucracy that government program administrators may erect at any moment. On the

other, there are specialized trust accounts and estate planning issues to consider. Even sophisticated investors and ace budgeters find themselves utterly lost when encountering all of this for the first time.

There are few well-marked road maps for any of this, as there is for those trying to invest their 401(k) money or refinance a mortgage. But there are a growing number of financial advisers and other profession-

on first before worrying about the family member next to you.

Walther, who has a brother with Asperger's syndrome who lives with their parents, said he sometimes saw parents who had spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on therapies for their child and arrived in his office with no retirement savings at the age of 50.

"That's a loving thing," he said. "But now you have another problem. There is

called Protected Tomorrows that advises families on the life planning tasks beyond the financial issues. She hopes to one day have a large team of affiliated financial planners around the country who are all experts on serving special needs families. In the meantime, there are networks of lawyers with directories of members who can help with some of the tasks, including the Academy of Special Needs Planners and the Special Needs Alliance. Your best source of advice and referrals to local experts may well be your fellow travelers, so be sure to seek out other families with relatives in similar situations as yours to see who has helped them with their planning.



Jerry Ruttenberg, a financial planner, and his brain-injured son, Seth, at Seth's assisted living home in Wynnewood, Pa. A large amount of tasks and rules face people who are trying to sort out the financial side of long-term care for a physically or developmentally disabled family member.

(Ryan Collerd/The New York Times)

als who themselves have special needs children or siblings. Because they've been there, they know the practical steps that most families need to take.

What follows is a primer from those practitioners on the basics that most every family ought to consider when helping someone with special needs.

nothing for you. That special needs kid is dependent on you guys, and now you can't support yourself."

THE TEAM

Once you know what challenges family members face – and it can sometimes take years to understand what limitations they may have and what kind of financial support they will need – it's probably wise to resist the urge to hunker down and sort it all out yourself.

"Life is totally rearranged," said Mary Anne Ehlert, a financial planner in Lincolnshire, Ill. Her late sister had cerebral palsy, and Ehlert also runs a service

THE TRUST

One of the first tasks that many proactive families tackle is often to set up a special needs trust, which holds assets that can help pay for a disabled person's care and expenses without disqualifying them for certain government benefits that are means-tested.

Some families feel an urgency to do this for estate planning purposes, since they can direct proceeds of a life insurance policy to the trust. They may leave the trust empty until that point.

Others start filling it from Day 1, as they would a college savings plan, because they worry about the future of government benefits given the amount of government debt.

"We're in a hole, and I don't know how long it will take to climb back out of the hole," said Matt Syverson, a financial planner in Overland Park, Kan., whose 5-year old daughter has Down syndrome. □

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Up to 11,000 people flee Syria in 24-hour period

JOHN HEILPRIN
ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — As many as 11,000 people fled Syria in 24 hours, some of them desperately clambering through a razor-wire fence into Turkey on Friday to escape fierce fighting between rebels and government forces for control of a border town.

The exodus is a sign of the escalating ferocity of the violence, which has killed more than 36,000 people since March 2011. Despite the bloodshed, embattled President Bashar Assad insisted there was no civil war in Syria, saying in a rare TV appearance that he was protecting Syrians against "terrorism" supported from abroad.

The flood of Syrians into neighboring Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon was "the highest that we have had in quite some time," said Panos Mountzis, the U.N. refugee agency's regional coordinator for the region. About 2,000 to 3,000 people are fleeing Syria daily, and the recent surge brings

the number registered with the agency to more than 408,000, he said.

During the 24-hour period that began Thursday, 9,000 Syrians crossed into Turkey — including 70 who were wounded and two who then died, U.N. officials said. Jordan and Lebanon each absorbed another 1,000 refugees.

The largest flow into Turkey came from the fighting at Ras al-Ayn in the predominantly Kurdish oil-producing northeastern province of al-Hasaka. The town hugs the border, practically adjacent to the Turkish town of Ceylanpinar.

On Thursday, rebels captured a border crossing between the two towns, Ceylanpinar's mayor, Ismail Aslan, told The Associated Press by telephone.

Rebels on Friday overran three security compounds in the town belonging to the military intelligence, air force intelligence and general intelligence directorate agencies, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition activist group.

More than 20 soldiers were killed in the fighting, the Observatory said.

Regime forces shelled rebel positions Friday morning, Aslan said. Regime tanks were also moving in to join the fight, according to another opposition activist group, the Local Coordina-

strations against Assad. But like other minority groups, they have increasingly been drawn into the fighting.

The rebel push on Ras al-Ayn, an ethnically mixed town inhabited by Kurds, Arab Muslims and Christians, was likely to inflame

climbing through the razor-wire fence on the 911-kilometer (566-mile) border to cross into Ceylanpinar.

Others fled into Turkey farther west along the border, trying to escape fighting at the Syrian town of Harem in Idlib province, which has seen intense battles in recent days.

The new arrivals bring the number of refugees in Turkey to around 120,000.

Radhouane Nouicer, the U.N.'s regional humanitarian coordinator for Syria, said the country is seeing unrelenting increases in violence, suffering, displacement and loss, "and civilian Syrians continue to pay the price."

He said U.N. officials also worry that Kurds and Palestinians are increasingly being drawn into the fighting recently.

The Anadolu agency reported a group of Syrian soldiers, including two generals and 11 colonels, had fled to Turkey with their families and were taken to a camp for military defectors, including dozens of other generals. □



Syrian children who fled with their families from the violence in their village, sit on the ground at a displaced camp in the Syrian village of Atmeh, near the Turkish border with Syria, Thursday, Nov. 8, 2012.

(AP Photo/Khalil Hamra)

tion Committees.

Syria's more than 2 million Kurds, long marginalized, have largely stayed out of the fighting, although some have taken part in demon-

tensions with the Kurds who fear a government offensive to flush out the fighters. Video from Turkey's Anadolu news agency showed Syrians jumping over and

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China sees recovery is taking hold

KEITH BRADSHER

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BEIJING — With construction cranes moving again all across China, from Guangzhou to Beijing, and with steel mills and concrete factories busy once more, the Chinese economy is showing signs of a debt-fueled recovery this autumn even as the United States and the European Union continue to struggle.

A raft of data came out Friday as the country's senior officials and top military officers gathered here for a once-a-decade leadership transition at the Party Congress.

Industrial production, fixed-asset investment, retail sales and electricity generation all strengthened more than expected last month, continuing a trend that began in September, while inflation slowed more than expected. State-owned banks have released a torrent of loans to state-owned enterprises since May.

An aging work force, overcapacity in many industries and heavy corporate debts appear to be producing a weaker recovery than in 2010, however, with little sign that the encouraging economic indicators released on Friday point to growth rates that will reach double digits again anytime soon.

Zhou Xiaochuan, the governor of the People's Bank of China, the country's central bank, said at a news conference at the Party Congress Thursday evening that the economy appeared to have turned a corner even before the strong performance in October.

"After China's economy moderated in the second quarter, domestic policies adjusted, helping the economy to stabilize in the third quarter, especially in September," he said, predicting that the economy would continue to grow into next year.

Many worries persist about the sustainability of even a modest recovery heavily reliant on debt. □

Anti-Putin protester gets 4 1/2 years in jail

MAX SEDDON
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — The first of 19 defendants being tried for participating in a massive rally against Presi-

of a series of anti-Putin rallies that erupted across Russia after fraud-plagued parliamentary elections. The demonstrations drew tens of thousands of peo-

fendants charged with participating in the protest violence have pleaded guilty. Opposition leaders said police provoked the violence and called Luzyanin's sen-

Judge Andrei Fedin said the court decided to give Luzyanin a shorter sentence for several reasons: his guilty plea, his testimony to investigators against other defendants, and his 15-year-old son and dependent mother.

Lawyers and opposition leaders had expected Luzyanin — who was already under a suspended sentence for extortion — to get a shorter sentence after cooperating with prosecutors.

Luzyanin had requested an expedited trial, which meant he could receive no more than two-thirds of the maximum sentence and could not challenge evidence.

But afterward his lawyer, Sergei Shushpanov, said his client would appeal his sentence.

Pavel Chikov of the Agora human rights lawyer association, which represents several of the 18 other defendants, said Luzyanin's sentence showed prosecutors "definitely want everyone in prison for a long time in order to frighten the rest of the activists."

Chikov said, "This sends a clear message: Protesters will believe they will get a long sentence just for protesting Putin."

Luzyanin's admission to participating in riots could make it easier to convict the others, whose lawyers have insisted the rioting was spontaneous. □

Maxim Luzyanin, 36, attends his trial on charges that he attacked riot police during a massive rally against Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Zamoskvoretsky district court, Moscow, Russia, Friday, Nov. 9, 2012.

(AP Photo/Yevgeny Feldman, Novaya Gazeta)

dent Vladimir Putin's return to the Kremlin that turned violent pleaded guilty on Friday and was sentenced to 4 1/2 years in prison.

The cases are seen as litmus test about whether the government plans to continue a crackdown on dissent.

None of the other defendants have pleaded guilty and they could receive longer prison terms if convicted.

The May protest was part

of the largest show of discontent in the country since the 1991 Soviet collapse.

In Zamoskvoretsky district court in Moscow, 36-year-old gym owner Maxim Luzyanin pleaded guilty on Friday to assaulting police and pelting them with pieces of asphalt when scuffles broke out during the May opposition rally in central Moscow. He was given a 4 1/2 year sentence. None of the 18 other de-

taining part of a Kremlin-orchestrated persecution of government critics.

"They'll give the others eight (years) now," Alexei Navalny, a charismatic anti-corruption activist and the protest movement's semi-official leader, tweeted.

During Luzyanin's trial, prosecutors had asked for 6 1/2 years of the maximum sentence of 8 years.

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late show: 11:00		late show: 2:00	
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HERE COMES THE BOOM	daily: 4:15 6:45 9:00	daily: 5:00 7:15	matinee: 2:00
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PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 4	daily: 7:15	daily: 10:00	matinee: 10:00
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SECRET OF THE WINGS 2D	daily: 5:00	daily: 2:30	matinee: 2:30
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SILENT HILL: REVELATION	daily: 9:30	daily: 4:45	matinee: 4:45
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Islamists in
Egypt rally
to impose
Shariah lawAYA BATRAWY
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Over 10,000 ultraconservative Muslims demonstrated Friday in downtown Cairo to demand that Egypt's new constitution be based on the rulings of Islamic law, or Shariah, in the latest tussle over the role of religion in the country's future.

The writing of the constitution has been fraught with controversy since last year's political uprising that toppled longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak and ushered in the rise of formerly repressed Islamists to power. But Islamists themselves are not in agreement over the interpretation of Shariah and its place in the document.

Demonstrators in Tahrir Square demanded that the panel tasked with writing the constitution override liberal and secular objections and include language that could see religious scholars influencing legislation. The panel is led by the Muslim Brotherhood, the powerful Islamist group from which the country's new President Mohammed Morsi hails.

"Shariah is our constitution," and, "The people demand the application of God's law," protesters chanted.

The controversy surrounding the constitution is centered on the wording of the second amendment. In the former constitution, the wording stated that the "principles of Islamic Shariah" are the basis of legislation. □

Terror strikes on Indonesian government seen rising

NINIEK KARMINI

Associated Press

BALI, Indonesia (AP) —

Ten years after terrorist attacks at two Bali nightclubs killed more than 200 people, mostly foreign tourists, Indonesia has won international praise for its counterterrorism efforts. Militant organizations have been fractured and many of their charismatic leaders have been killed or jailed.

But an Associated Press analysis shows the number of strikes within the country has actually gone up, especially since 2010, when radical imams called on their followers to focus on domestic targets rather than Westerners. The more recent attacks have been conducted with less expertise, and the vast majority of victims have been Indonesians.

"It turns out that the terrorism problem in Indonesia is not finished yet," said Maj. Gen. Tito Karnavian, a former counterterrorism official recently appointed police chief of Papua province. "The quality of their attacks has decreased, but the quantity has increased."

Since Oct. 12, 2002, when the Bali attacks killed 202 people — including 88 Australians and seven Americans — there have been four major terror strikes targeting Westerners in Indonesia, resulting in 45 deaths. The last was in 2009, when attacks on the J.W. Marriott and Ritz-Carlton hotels in Jakarta killed seven people.

That compares to 15 attacks against security forces, local authorities, Christians and some moderate

Muslims in just the past two years. Those attacks have killed a total of 11 people — all police officers — and wounded dozens of civilians.

Although the targets may have shifted, the methods for recruiting young men remain the same. They are indoctrinated to believe that

Today, Fadlan believes he would be in paradise if he had been picked.

"I still believe it ... because it's not promised by my recruiter, but God," Fadlan said softly in a mosque near his house in central Jakarta. Fadlan was jailed for four years in 2006 after being found guilty of harboring



Members of Indonesian police anti-terror unit Special Detachment 88 move into positions as they prepare for a raid in Solo, Central Java, Indonesia.

(AP Photo)

as jihadist "grooms" they will reap God's rewards for martyrdom — paradise for the bomber and 70 family members and the gift of 72 virgin angels. It's a belief shunned by most Muslims.

Fadlan, a convicted militant who goes by a single alias name, was trained to be a suicide bomber in 2001 by Jemaah Islamiyah, the al-Qaida-linked group that sent two other bombers to the Bali nightclubs on a busy Saturday night. He told the AP that his mentor, Imam Samudra, one of the plot masterminds, deemed it too risky to use him in the attacks because he was already wanted for an earlier botched bombing.

terrorists, including Noordin M. Top, who was Southeast Asia's most wanted militant before police killed him in 2009. Fadlan was released on good behavior that same year and is now part of the government's de-radicalization program, designed to reform convicted extremists.

He told the AP he also was involved in two 2001 bombings at churches in eastern Jakarta that injured more than 70 worshippers. He was never convicted in those incidents due to a lack of evidence.

Now 36, Fadlan says he's not actively involved with any militant groups in Indonesia and no longer

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Cuban sugar looks to rebound after bitter tumble

ANDREA RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press

JARONU, Cuba (AP) —

Cuba's signature industry is showing signs of life two years after the worst harvest in more than a century.

Hulking processing plants

and a pervasive oily odor. "I've never seen as much money being spent here as there is now," said Alo dia Campo, a 54-year-old plant engineer and among the few employees still remaining from the Brasil's glory days.

inefficiency and thousands of workers were moved to other sectors. Eventually, the powerful Sugar Ministry itself was eliminated. Even with the current reorganization, sugar revenues are far outpaced by sectors such as tourism and

gets to keep 65 percent of its revenues and make decisions about reinvesting without having to ask permission from the central government. At the Brasil refinery, the mammoth rust-covered sheds installed by American Sugar Refining Co., which launched the plant in 1921, still stand. Although surrounded by the twisted carcasses of machinery ripped out of the structures, the Brasil is expected to be ready for the upcoming annual harvest and start milling cane by February. That would have seemed an unlikely prospect during most of the last decade. The plant mostly sat idle or was intermittently used as a grain depot, with only 50 employees remaining from a workforce that once numbered 500.

The refinery came back online briefly in 2008, only to be shuttered after two years because it was so inefficient.

The Brasil's near-demise mirrors sugar's decline from the times when it accounted for 80 percent of Cuba's export income, principally from the nearby U.S. market before relations soured in the 1960s.

The crop fueled Cuba's rum industry and permeated popular culture. Iconic singer Celia Cruz was famed for interjecting cries of "Azucar!" ("sugar") in her songs.

Over the decades since Cuba's 1959 revolution, bureaucratic mismanagement created a slow-growing crisis that exploded in 2002. □



People drive a classic American car past a sugar cane field in Camaguey, Cuba. Just two years ago, Cuba's sugar industry was on its knees after the worst harvest in more than a century. Now Cuba's signature industry is showing signs of life. With world market prices rebounding, sugar is suddenly more profitable, and a reorganization of the sector could offer a blueprint for how to lift up the rest of the island's economy.

(AP Photo/Franklin Reyes)

are coming back online and production is rising, a boon to rural towns like Jaronu where producing sugar has been a way of life for generations.

Officials recently said that the harvest is expected to increase by 20 percent in the coming season after jumps of 7 percent and 16 percent in the last two harvests.

At the Brasil refinery in the steamy central province of Camaguey, a \$6 million makeover is under way.

During a recent visit, bulldozers were busy re-grading the floor, operators were laying foundations for new machinery and workers buzzed about, hammering and welding amid a deafening mechanic roar

With world market prices rebounding, sugar is suddenly more profitable, and a radical reorganization of the sector could offer a blueprint for how to lift the rest of the island's inefficient command economy. "The Cuban sugar industry is tied to the culture, history and identity of this country," said Liobel Perez, spokesman for Azcuba, the largely autonomous state-run company that replaced the Sugar Ministry in late 2011.

"Sugarcane will not define Cuba's future, but it will have to be a part of it."

Just two years ago, the sugar industry was on its knees. The sugar minister had been sacked. State-run newspapers lambasted rampant

nickel mining. Last year, sugar earnings were \$333 million, while nickel brought in \$1.25 billion, according to a study compiled by Rafael Romeu, a U.S.-based economist and former president of the Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy.

Tourism brought in \$2.5 billion in revenue in 2011, according to government figures.

President Raul Castro created Azcuba as part of his effort to stimulate the farm sector and streamline a fossilized Marxist economy that even he says doesn't work anymore.

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Piracy in Somalia becoming a thing of the past

ABDI GULED
JASON STRAZIUSO

Associated Press

HOBYO, Somalia (AP) —

The empty whiskey bottles and overturned, sand-filled skiffs littering this once-bustling shoreline are signs the heyday of Somali piracy may be over. Most of the prostitutes are gone and the luxury cars repossessed. Pirates while away their hours playing cards or catching lobsters.

"There's nothing to do here these days," said Hassan Abdi, a high school graduate who taught English in a private school before turning to piracy in 2009. "The hopes for a revitalized market are not high."

Armed guards aboard cargo ships and an international naval armada that carries out onshore raids have put a huge dent in piracy and might even be ending the scourge.

While experts say it's too early to declare victory, the numbers are startling: In 2010, pirates seized 47 vessels. This year they've taken five.

For a look at the reality behind those numbers, an

Associated Press team from the capital, Mogadishu, traveled to the pirate havens of Galkayo and Hobyo, a coastal town considered too dangerous for Western reporters since the kidnappers have turned to land-based ab-

tas living in darkened, unfurnished rooms, hiding from their creditors.

Prostitute Faduma Ali longs for the days when her pirate customers had money. As she smoked a hookah in a hot, airless room in Galkayo last week, she



Masked Somali pirate Hassan stands near a Taiwanese fishing vessel that washed up on shore after the pirates were paid a ransom and released the crew, in the once-bustling pirate den of Hobyo, Somalia. The empty whisky bottles and overturned, sand-filled skiffs that litter this shoreline are signs that the heyday of Somali piracy may be over - most of the prostitutes are gone, the luxury cars repossessed, and pirates talk more about catching lobsters than seizing cargo ships.

(AP Photo/Farah Abdi Warsameh)

ductions over the last year. There they found pirates who once owned vast vil-

sneered as she answered a phone call from a former customer seeking some action on credit.

"Those days are over. Can you pay me \$1,000?" she asked. That's what she once got for a night's work. "If not, goodbye and leave me alone."

"Money," she groaned as she hung up.

The caller, Abdirizaq Saleh, once had bodyguards and maids and the attention of beautiful women. When ransoms came in, a party was thrown, with blaring music, bottles of wine, the stimulant khat and a woman for every man.

Now Saleh is hiding from creditors in a dirty room filled with dust-covered TVs and high-end clothes he acquired when flush.

"Ships are being held longer, ransoms are getting smaller and attacks are less likely to succeed," said Saleh, sitting on a threadbare mattress covered by a mosquito net. A plastic rain jacket he used at sea dangled from the door.

Somali pirates hijacked 46 ships in 2009 and 47 in 2010, the European Union Naval Force says. In 2011, pirates launched a record number of attacks — 176 — but commandeered only 25 ships, an indication that

new on-board defenses were working.

The last of the five hijacked this year was the Liberian-flagged MV Smyrni, taken with its crew of 26 on May 10. They are still being held. "We have witnessed a significant drop in attacks in recent months. The stats speak for themselves," said Lt. Cmdr. Jacqueline Sheriff, a spokeswoman for the European Union Naval Force.

Sheriff attributes the plunge in hijackings mostly to international military efforts — European, American, Chinese, Indian, Russian — that have improved over time.

In May, after receiving an expanded mandate, the EU Naval Force destroyed pirate weapons, equipment and fuel on land. Japanese aircraft fly over the shoreline to relay pirate activity to nearby warships. Merchant ships have also increased their communications with patrolling military forces after pirate sightings, Sheriff said. Ships have bolstered their own defenses with armed guards, barbed wire, water cannons and safe rooms.

No vessel with armed guards has ever been hijacked, noted Cyrus Moody of the International Maritime Bureau. A June report from the U.N. Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea said armed guards have forced pirates to "abort attacks earlier and at greater ranges from targeted vessels."

Some of those who live around Hobyo along central Somalia's Indian Ocean coastline say they never wanted the region to become a pirate den. Fishermen say piracy began around 2005 as a way to keep international vessels from plundering fish stocks off Somalia.

But in the absence of law and order in a country that has not had an effective central government for two decades, ransoms grew and criminal networks planned more sophisticated operations, launching attacks on freighters and yachts from mother ships hundreds of miles offshore. □

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LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Group of loyal Visitors honored by ATA at the Marriott Ocean Club



Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, at the Marriott Ocean Club, as Distinguished Visitor and Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 and 20-or-more consecutive years.

The honorees were Dennis and Teresa Price, Anthony and Carol Ferraro, and Daniel and Linda Pinkerton as Distinguished Visitors, and Charles and Susanne Logan as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The honorees are loyal members of the Marriott Ocean Club, and they love the Island very much, because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants and the diversity of the island and Aruba feels like a second home and the people are like a family to them. The certificates were presented by Ernest Giel, representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, together with Gail Sahit and Lilian Britten, representing the Marriott Ocean Club. □

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Aruba Say's "Masha Danki" to Loyal Visitors



Recently, Wayne and Laurie Dashnaw, residents of Keeseville, New York, were honored as Distinguished

Visitors, and Barbara Stein, resident of Windsor, Ontario, Canada, and Rose Marie De Rosa, resident of

Crawford, New Jersey as Goodwill Ambassadors. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name



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**Heather
Ravelli**

She is staying at the Renaissance Aruba Resort. It is her first visit and she mentioned it will not be her last, she will come back next year. What she loves the most of Aruba is the friendliness of the locals.



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of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for between 10-and-20 years consecutive.

The honorees are members of Caribbean Palm Village and have been enjoying the Island every year. Darline S. de Cuba, representing Aruba Tourism Au-

thority and Mislady Fingal conducted the ceremony at Caribbean Palm Village. Top reasons for returning provided by the honorees were they consider Aruba to be the "Happy Island", the great weather, and friendly Aruban hospitality, white sand beaches and the local food. □

Arlene Campeau honored by ATA at Westin Hotel & Resort



Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very loyal and friendly Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba. The honoree was Marlene



Campeau, a resident of Hamden, Connecticut. Marlene has been visiting Aruba for 30 consecutive years. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as

a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to 20-years consecutive. The main reasons why she keeps coming back to Aruba are the friendly people, the beaches, the beautiful weather, and the local

food.

The certificate was presented by Darline S. de Cuba, representing Aruba Tourism Authority, together with Sonia Bryson, Assistant Secretary of Westin Hotel. □

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Well Done is looking for friends and family members

We would like to introduce you to Well Done, one of the donkeys that has found shelter at the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary. Well Done is still a baby, whose mother has left him twice already. For the Sanctuary there is only one solution: to take him in. He is the umptieth donkey that needs food, shelter and loving care. Because the feeding times were every two hours and Well Done needed special soy milk, Well Done found his new home at Desirée's, the manager of the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary. She fed him every two hours, setting the clock in the middle of the night for every next feeding. Yes, a donkey baby is just like a human baby. In the meantime Well Done has grown quite a bit and he is taken to the Sanctuary at regular intervals. This is where he has to live, learning how to survive in a large herd without the sheltering and nurturing of a mother donkey. Well Done is the name that he received from the winner of the 'name the baby' contest. At first he had no name for a month, but he has not suffered one little bit because of that.

This beautiful donkey has been provided with a chip, just like all the other donkeys. On the chip is information about the donkey and

fed and watered and when they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are expensive customers for the sanctuary.



its medical history. The donkeys at the sanctuary have a lot of friends with whom they can play all day long. And they love living there: they are well-cared for, they are

The volunteers are trying to cover the various costs with all kinds of activities and the sale of great donkey memorabilia in the shop. Fortunately, there are also visitors

who wish to adopt a donkey, who buy something at the donkey shop or who make a donation. Thus they help support us. Everyone is welcome to visit the sanctuary, which has opening hours from 9 am until 4 pm and in the weekend from 10 am until 3. Entry is free of charge and one can enjoy a soft drink, a cup of coffee or a refreshing ice cream. The volunteers of the sanctuary are hoping that somebody will adopt this friendly, lovely donkey. Of course the donkey will keep on living at the sanctuary; you only need to pay AWG. 30,- per month for the donkey's keep. With this amount you help support the sanctuary as well as your own donkey. And you will receive a beautiful certificate and a super T-shirt and your name and photo will be posted on our website. So please call the sanctuary at 593-2933; you can also register via the website www.arubandonkey.org or donate money on bank account number 40.03.025 at the Aruba Bank! Just do it! Would you like to follow the donkeys on Facebook: surf to Donkey Sanctuary Aruba please. □

American Style Burgers Rule!!

The inspiration for a good American style hamburger comes right from the owners backyard grill. Aaron Walisever – before his 'retirement' – was known as "The King of Fireplaces & Grills" in New England. Moving to Aruba from Sharon, Massachusetts with his wife Rosie was a positive move all around – but their search for a good burger and fries didn't stretch far from home. It was this reason that Rosie & Aaron opened 5 Burgers Aruba! As the name implies, there are 5 specialty burgers offered including a mammoth Western Burger, a tasty melted Gouda Burger, a Farmers Burger complete with a fried egg. For the very hungry, a 3 patty Man Burger and to round out the specials – a zesty chicken breast with special sauce is also available.

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SPORTS**Aruba TODAY****NFL Roundup**

Indianapolis Colts quarterback Andrew Luck (12) celebrates his touchdown run against the Jacksonville Jaguars during the second quarter of an NFL football game, Thursday, Nov. 8, 2012, in Jacksonville, Fla.

Associated Press

**Luck runs
for 2 TDS,
Colts beat
Jags 27-10**

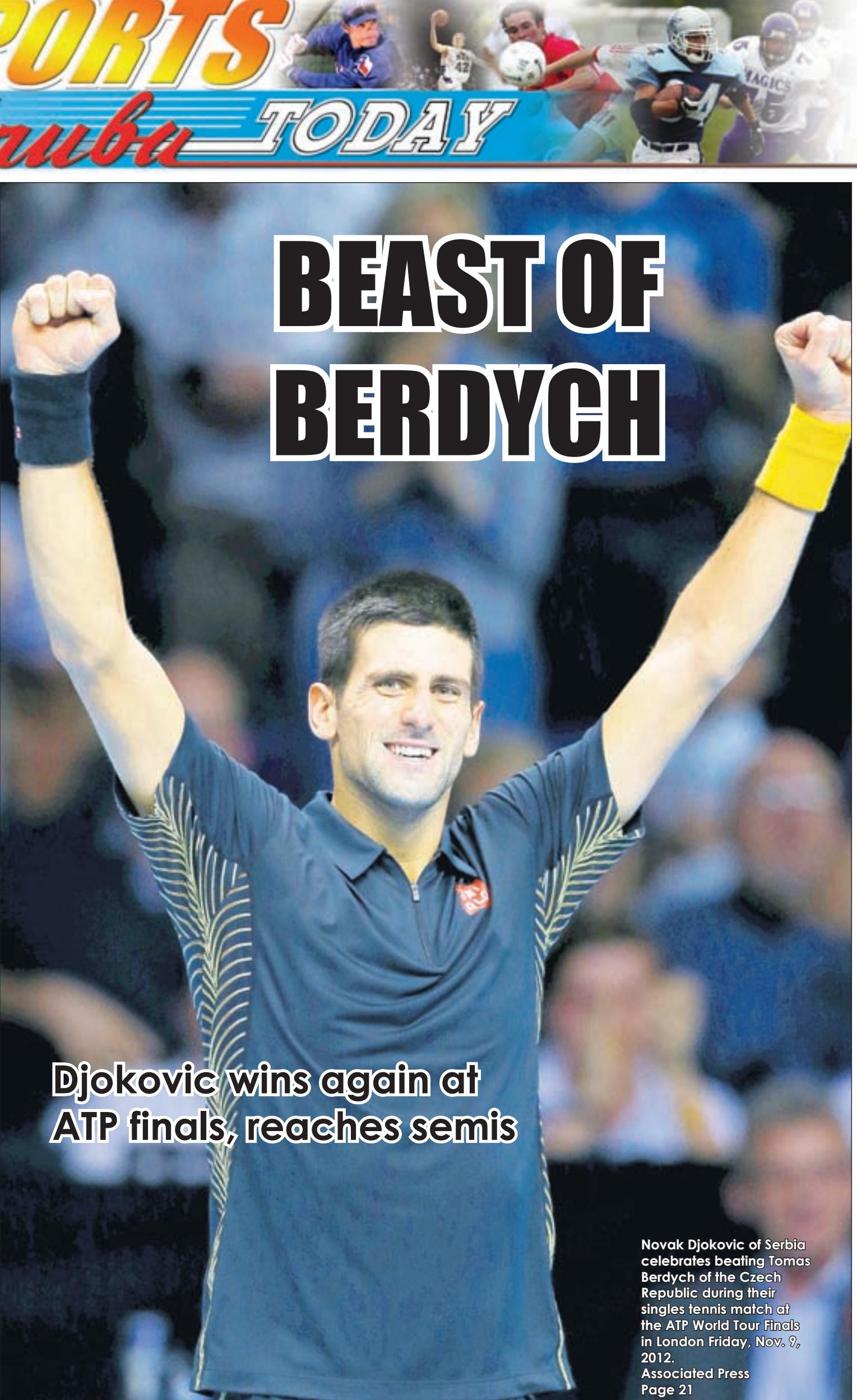
MARK LONG
AP Sports Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Florida (AP)

— The Indianapolis Colts became the latest team to hammer the Jacksonville Jaguars at home, winning 27-10 on Thursday thanks chiefly to two rushing touchdowns from rookie quarterback Andrew Luck. Darius Butler returned an interception for a score as the Colts (6-3) won their fourth consecutive game and snapped a three-game losing streak against Jacksonville. The Jaguars (1-8) have lost six straight. The Colts had cause for concern following an emotional victory four days earlier, one in which cancer-stricken coach Chuck Pagano delivered a passionate, postgame speech in the locker room. Interim coach Bruce Ari-

Continued on next page

BEAST OF BERDYCH



**Djokovic wins again at
ATP finals, reaches semis**

Novak Djokovic of Serbia celebrates beating Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic during their singles tennis match at the ATP World Tour Finals in London Friday, Nov. 9, 2012.
Associated Press
Page 21



Jacksonville Jaguars defensive end Andre Branch (90) pressures Indianapolis Colts quarterback Andrew Luck, left, as guard Mike McGlynn (75) blocks during the first half of an NFL football game, Thursday, Nov. 8, 2012, in Jacksonville, Fla.

NFL Rundown

Continued from page 17

ans was worried the team might crash from the emotional high, but they stayed up. Indianapolis scored on three consecutive possessions in the first half, opening a 17-0 lead that started emptying the stands at Ev-

erBank Field.

Luck, coming off an NFL rookie record 433 yards passing against Miami, wasn't quite as sharp. He didn't need to be, either. Luck completed 18 of 26 passes for 227 yards, with an interception and a fumble. But he was unstoppable near the end zone, deking defenders with two

pump fakes and scrambling for a 5-yard score on one drive and then plunging across the goal line on fourth down on the next possession.

That was plenty against the Jaguars, who have the league's worst offense and played a third game without star running back Maurice Jones-Drew. □

Associated Press

Lolo Jones team win silver in WCup bobsled



JOHN KEKIS

AP Sports Writer

LAKE PLACID, New York (AP)

— Reigning world champion

Kaillie Humphries of Canada has won the gold medal in the World Cup bobsled season-opener, beating the United States team of Lolo Jones and Jazmine Fenlator.

Humphries and brakewoman Chelsea Valois finished the two runs at Lake Placid in 1 minute, 54.86 seconds,

0.47 seconds ahead of Fenlator and Jones, a two-time Olympian in hurdles.

Elana Meyers and track and field star Tianna Madison, who won gold at the London Olympics in the 4 x 100 relay, won the bronze, just 0.01 behind their teammates at Mount Van Hoevenberg.

Americans Jamie Greubel and Aja Evans finished ninth in the 16-sled field. □

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NFL Preview

Hype hard to ignore as Bears, Texans collide

The Associated Press

No NFL team has been more opportunistic than the Chicago Bears. Now, they have a chance to show just how serious a title contender they are when their schedule takes a tougher turn from a visit by the Houston Texans at Soldier Field on Sunday.

Both teams are 7-1 and in first place, with the Bears leading the NFC North and the Texans atop the AFC South, so it's not hard to see why they're pumped up for this one.

"Every game is a big game, especially when you're winning like we are," Houston defensive coordinator Wade Phillips said. "These are really important games for us. They can, boom, make your season."

The similarities — and contrasts — between these teams are hard to ignore. Start with the fact that both lost to Green Bay and keep going from there. They each boast dominant defenses, with the Bears sixth overall and the Texans third, and they're tied for third with 25 sacks along with the New York Giants and Seattle Seahawks. Chicago's has been getting the publicity this week. Houston's seems overshadowed.

Either way, what they're doing is impressive.

No team has as many takeaways as Chicago with 28, and none has been better at hanging onto the ball than Houston with a league-low six turnovers, none in the past two games.

"These guys are exceptional," Texans coach Gary

Kubiak said. "They never give up on a play. If you catch a slant or something, and you're 7 and 8, 15 yards down the field, they're coming behind you to poke it out. Obviously, we've been good at protecting it but they're the best at getting it out. We pay attention to it all the time. We better pay special attention to it this week."

The Bears boast a defensive player of the year in Charles Tillman, the league leader with seven forced fumbles — four last week against Tennessee.

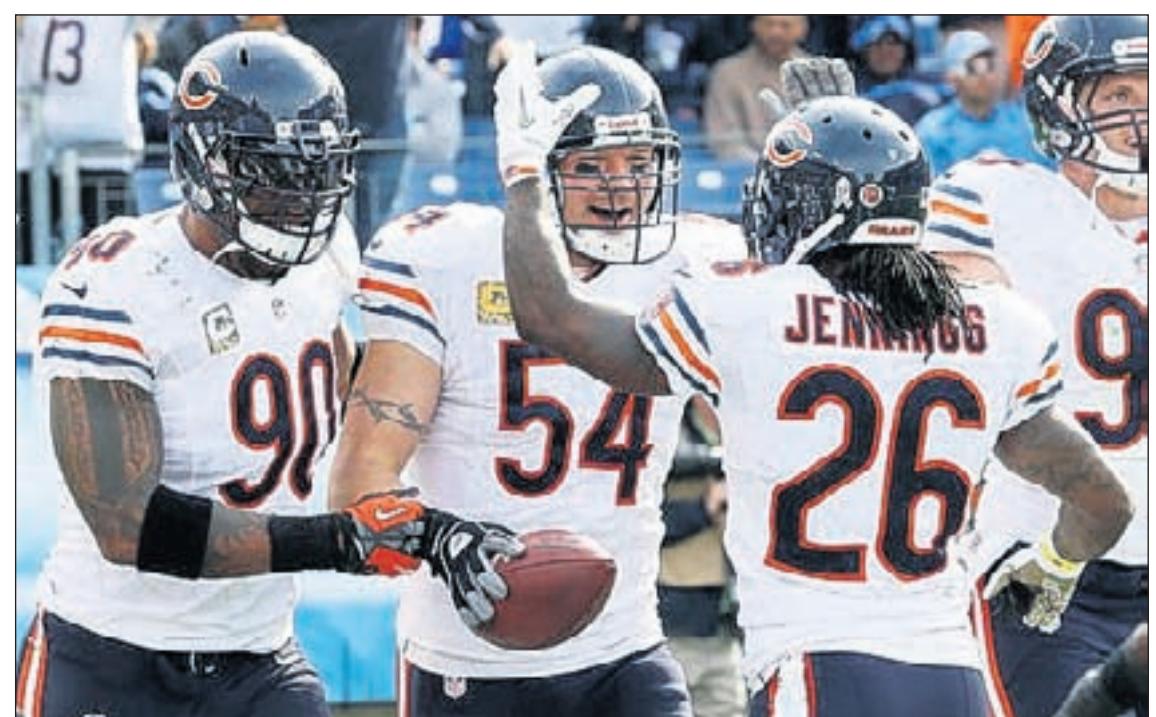
So do the Texans in J.J. Watt, the league leader with 10 1/2 sacks in his second season.

Both teams have elite running backs (Matt Forte for Chicago, Arian Foster for Houston) and talented quarterbacks (Jay Cutler, Matt Schaub). They'll be throwing to star receivers who expect to be going against top cornerbacks, with the Bears' Brandon Marshall (second in the league with 797 yards) matched against Jonathan Joseph and the Texans' Andre Johnson with Tillman or Tim Jennings.

One thing that doesn't bode well for the Bears? Their offensive line going against the Texans' front, particularly the 6-foot-5, 295-pound (1.96-meter, 134-kilogram) Watt.

If he's not taking down the quarterback, he's reaching up to bat passes. He's broken up 10 already, and when he looks at the Bears, it's easy to envision what could happen.

"I see opportunities for sacks against every offen-



Chicago Bears middle linebacker Brian Urlacher (54) celebrates with Julius Peppers (90) and Tim Jennings (26) after Urlacher returned an interception for a touchdown against the Tennessee Titans in the first quarter of an NFL football game on Sunday, Nov. 4, 2012, in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

sive line," Watt said. "I obviously watched the film. You see the opportunities. You get excited."

Meanwhile, the unbeaten Atlanta Falcons head to their archrival New Orleans Saints. Usually, this is a meeting of NFC South titans, but the Saints have not done their part. Still, they come off their best performance in a 28-13 victory over Philadelphia, their third win in four games.

And they surely will be stoked to play the runaway division leaders.

"For the players, it feels like every time we play the Falcons it's such a big game, whether it be our standings or the meaning of the game (or) just the fact that we're divisional opponents," Saints quarterback Drew Brees said. "We always know it's go-



ing to be a 16-round bout. But, I think it's kind of obvious that there's an extreme competitiveness on both sides knowing what type of game this will be."

Eight teams have gone 9-0 since 2002. Four went on to play in the Super Bowl and two (2006 Indianapolis and 2009 New Orleans) won it. Also on Sunday, Denver is at Carolina; San Diego at

Tampa Bay; Oakland at Baltimore; the New York Giants at Cincinnati; St. Louis at San Francisco; the New York Jets at Seattle; Buffalo at New England; Tennessee at Miami; and Detroit at Minnesota. On Monday, it's Kansas City at Pittsburgh. The action began on Thursday with Indianapolis' 27-10 victory at Jacksonville. □

Lakers fire coach Mike Brown after 1-4 start

GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles Lakers fired coach Mike Brown on Friday after a 1-4 start to his second season in charge. Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak announced the surprising move several hours before they hosted Golden State. Assistant coach Bernie Bickerstaff will coach the Lakers against the Warriors.

"This was a difficult and painful decision to make," Kupchak said. "Mike was very hard-working and dedicated, but we felt it was in the best interest of the team to make a change at this time. We appreciate Mike's efforts and contributions and wish him and his family the best of luck."

Los Angeles began the season with championship expectations after trading for center Dwight Howard and point guard Steve Nash, adding two super-



In this Nov. 7, 2012 file photo Los Angeles Lakers head coach Mike Brown holds his head before the start of the first quarter during an NBA basketball game in Salt Lake City.

Associated Press

stars alongside Kobe Bryant and Pau Gasol.

But the Lakers went 0-8 during the preseason last month for the first time in franchise history before stumbling into the regular season with an 0-3 start, losing to Dallas, Portland and the Clippers. After finally

beating Detroit last Sunday for their first win, the Lakers looked listless again in a loss at Utah on Wednesday. The Lakers' 1-4 record is the worst in the Western Conference, and owner Jim Buss had seen enough of the coach he hired just 18 months earlier to replace

11-time NBA champion Phil Jackson. Brown signed a four-year deal worth roughly \$18 million in May 2011.

"It's a pretty direct message to all of us," Gasol said while leaving the Lakers' shootaround Friday morning in El Segundo. "There's no messing around. It's time for all of us to step it up." While Lakers fans had reacted with their usual panic whenever the 16-time NBA champions lose a few games in a row, Kupchak and Buss publicly appeared to stand firmly behind Brown, the long-time Cleveland Cavaliers coach. Brown had pleaded for patience with his integration of several new players into his lineup while everybody learned a new offense.

"I have great respect for the Buss family and the Lakers' storied tradition, and I thank them for the opportunity they afforded me," Brown said in a statement issued by the Lakers.

"I have a deep appreciation for the coaches and players that I worked with this past year, and I wish the organization nothing but success as they move forward."

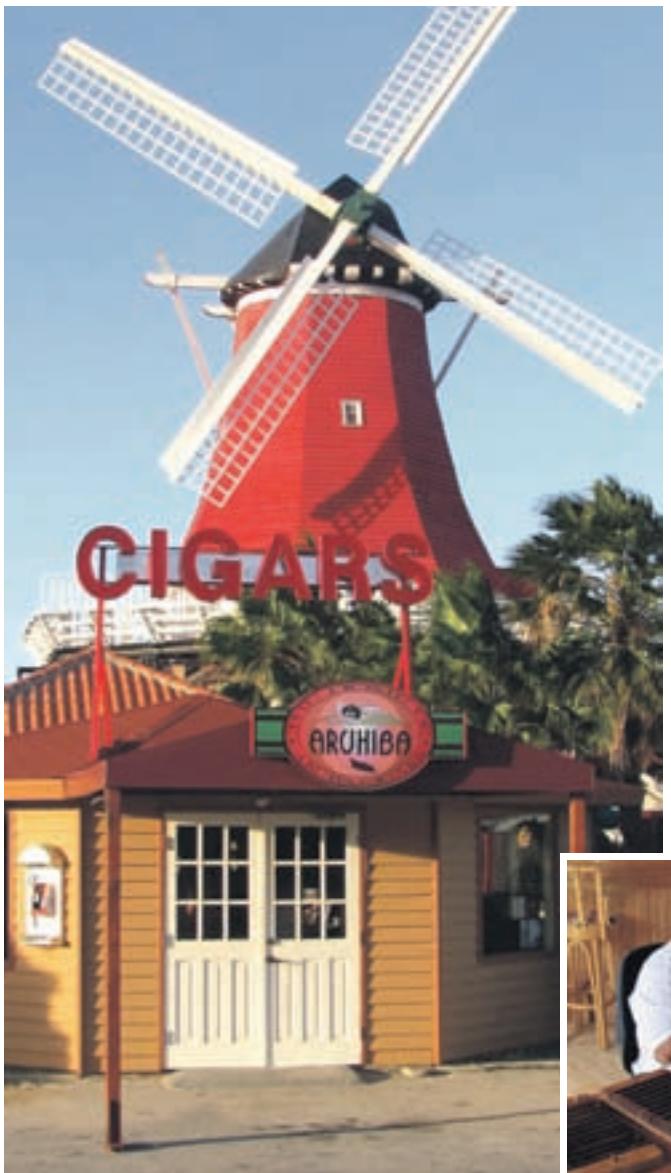
Brown's players all were fully behind him in public, with Bryant vocally suggesting critics of the Lakers' new offense should give them time to get it working. Bryant missed a significant portion of training camp while dealing with minor injuries, and Nash has a small fracture in his leg that has kept him out of the lineup since the Lakers' second game.

Yet the Lakers had given no indication they might pull one of the earliest coaching changes in NBA history until Kupchak gathered the players Friday morning to inform them of the decision.

"He told us the decision was made," Gasol said. "We didn't have a good start. □

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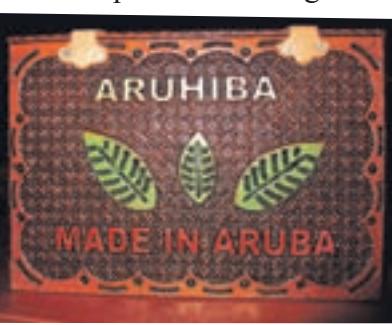


ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store

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COME AND HAVE AN ENJOYABLE TIME

Djokovic, Murray win at ATP finals and reach semis

CHRIS LEHOURITES
AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — Needing to win only one set to join Novak Djokovic in the semifinals of the ATP finals, Andy Murray delighted the adoring home crowd by winning two.

The U.S. Open and Olympic champion defeated Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 6-2, 7-6 (3) Friday to reach Sunday's semifinals, hours after Djokovic advanced by beating Tomas Berdych 6-2, 7-6 (6).

Because Djokovic won the early match at the O2 Arena in straight sets, Murray needed only to win one set to ensure his passage. However, he said he was unsure about what would get him through when he took the court, adding that coach Ivan Lendl just told him to focus on winning and not worry about just winning one set.

"I didn't know exactly what I needed to do. But obviously when he said that, I kind of realized," Murray said. "Then I just asked the umpire at the change of ends after the first set whether I was through or not. Then he said I was. That was it."

He won that set easily, too, breaking Tsonga's serve in the first and third games en route to a 4-0 lead.

Murray had another early break in the second set, but Tsonga got it back to even the score at 3-3 and eventually force the tiebreaker. "I'm somebody who never gives up," said Tsonga, who lost all three of his matches. "So sometimes ... you not playing a good tennis, and you keep fighting, you keep believ(ing) in you, and then it comes better and better, and that's it."

Murray (2-1) finished second in Group A, while Djokovic (3-0) was first. The ATP finals is the last tournament of the season, and only for the top eight play-

ers in the world. In Group B, six-time champion Roger Federer has already qualified for the semifinals and will face Juan Martin del Potro in his final group match on Saturday. David Ferrer is also in the group and can still qualify for the semifinals, but Janko Tipsarevic has been eliminated.

If Federer wins his group, he would face Murray in the semifinals.

"I think over the years, I got used to playing those guys a couple of times in a week or whatever," said Murray, who lost to Djokovic in the group stage. "It's not something that I'm afraid of. I know it's incredibly difficult and challenging to beat guys like that back-to-back, but it's doable." Before coming to London, Djokovic lost in the second round of the Paris Masters, and said after that match that he felt down physically. But against Berdych, the top-ranked Serb ran all over the court, retrieving ball after ball and making his opponent work hard on nearly every point.

"If you are winning matches, I mean, obviously you feel better," Djokovic said. "But still, I mean, the fact is that it being the last tournament of the year here in London for most of the players, it is a challenge finding that last drop of energy, physical, mental, to find their best game and go as far as they can."

Djokovic, who reclaimed the No. 1 ranking at the beginning of the week, broke his Czech opponent twice in the first set and once in the second, though he was broken right back on the third occasion to force the tiebreaker.

Berdych then had his opportunities to win the second set, leading 5-1 and 6-3 in the tiebreaker, but he wasted all three of his

set points as Djokovic won five straight to close out the match.

"I had some chances in the tiebreak," said Berdych, who was eliminated from the tournament with a 1-2 record. "If I would be able to make it, try to push him for the third set, then maybe get another chance. But this would be just if. It didn't happen."

Berdych has only beaten Djokovic once in 12 tries, and that came two years ago on grass in the Wimbledon semifinals. On hard courts, Djokovic is now 10-0 against the hard-hitting Czech.

Besides playing tennis and winning tournaments, Djokovic has also had his father's health on his mind. On Friday, the top-ranked Serb said his father was getting better but didn't give any detail as to what the problem is.

"Well, every win means a lot for my family and me," Djokovic said. "But there are more important things in life, and that's health."



Andy Murray of Britain plays a return to Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France during their singles tennis match at the ATP World Tour Finals in London Friday, Nov. 9, 2012.

Associated Press

I guess that's the priority Despite bowing out from now." the ATP finals. □

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The problem when iron's out of balance

© 2012 New York Times

Iron, an essential nutrient, has long been the nation's most common nutritional deficiency.

In decades past, many parents worried that children who were picky eaters would develop iron-deficiency anemia. My mother boiled meat I refused to eat and fed me the concentrated broth in hopes I'd get some of its iron.

Now baby foods, infant formula and many other child-friendly foods, like breakfast cereals, breads, rice and pasta, are fortified with iron.

Today iron deficiency is more likely in infants who are exclusively breast-fed, young children who consume too much milk, menstruating and pregnant women, vegans and strict vegetarians and people who take medications that cause internal bleeding or interfere with iron absorption.

These days, more attention is being paid to the opposite problem: iron overload,

which studies indicate can damage organs and may increase the risk of diabetes, heart attack and cancer, particularly in older people.

In examining more than 1,000 white Americans

high.

The authors concluded that "the likely liability in iron nutriture in free-living, elderly white Americans eating a Western diet is high iron stores, not iron deficiency." Iron is an essential part of



Iron has long been the nation's most common nutritional deficiency, but now more attention is being paid to the opposite problem: iron overload.

(Yvetta Fedorova/The New York Times)

ages 67 to 96 participating in the Framingham Heart Study, researchers found that only about 3 percent had deficient levels of iron in their blood or stored in their bodies, but 13 percent had levels considered too

the proteins that transport oxygen in the body. Hemoglobin, the oxygen-carrying protein in red blood cells, accounts for about two-thirds of the body's iron supply.

Smaller amounts are found

in myoglobin, the protein that supplies oxygen to muscles, and in enzymes needed for various biochemical reactions.

In addition, a varying amount of iron is stored in proteins that release it to the blood when needed. The more iron that is absorbed from the diet, the higher the level of stored iron.

About one person in 250 inherits a genetic disorder called hemochromatosis that increases iron absorption and results in a gradual, organ-damaging buildup of stored iron, although symptoms of the problem usually don't become apparent until midlife or later. While the risk of cancer from too much iron is uncertain except in people with hemochromatosis, the known links between high levels of red meat consumption and cancers of the colon and prostate are highly suggestive of an increased risk associated with excessive consumption of heme iron. □

Study: obesity surgery can help avert diabetes

M. MARCHIONE

Associated Press

Doctors are reporting a new benefit from weight-loss surgery — preventing diabetes. Far fewer obese people developed that disease if they had stomach-shrinking operations rather than usual care to try to slim down, a large study in Sweden found.

The results are provoking fresh debate about when adjustable bands and other bariatric procedures should be offered. It is "provocative and exciting" that surgery can prevent diabetes, but it is "impractical and unjustified" to think of doing it on millions of obese adults, Dr. Danny Jacobs, a Duke University surgeon, wrote in a commentary in the medical journal. Dr. Mitchell Roslin, bariatric surgery chief at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York, disagreed. "If surgery is the only treatment we have, we have to accept the cost ramifications of that" and give up "the naive notion" that we can just teach severely obese people how to lose weight, said Roslin, who consults for some makers of bariatric surgery equipment.

Millions of Americans have Type 2 diabetes brought on by obesity. Earlier this year, two studies showed that obesity surgery can reverse diabetes and keep it away for many years, possibly for life. The new study went a step further, to see if it could prevent diabetes in the first place among people who are obese.

Researchers led by Dr. Lars Sjöström of Sahlgrenska University Hospital in Gothenburg, Sweden, tracked 1,658 patients who had bariatric surgery — mostly bands and stomach stapling — and 1,771 similar patients who just got usual care and counseling on how to lose weight.

None had diabetes when the study began. After about 10 years on average among those still in the study, 392 developed diabetes in the usual care group versus 110 in the surgery group. □

Persistence is key to treating feminine pain

JANE E. BRODY

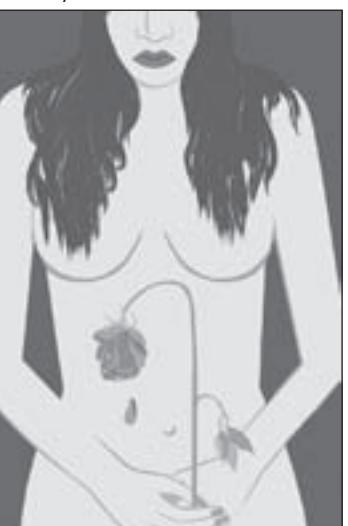
© 2012 New York Times

Millions of women experience vaginal discomfort, and sometimes crippling pain, for a variety of reasons, most often a loss of estrogen. The resulting vaginal dryness and atrophy can make sexual intercourse, a pelvic exam, urinating or even sitting, walking or cycling a painful nightmare. In addition to women near or past menopause, those affected include women who have recently given birth or are breast-feeding, women treated with estrogen-suppressing drugs for breast cancer or given chemotherapy or pelvic radiation for other cancers and women whose ovaries were surgically removed. With women now living more than a third of their lives past menopause and more and more surviving cancer, sexual problems linked to estrogen decline are increasingly common. Yet, only about one-quarter of women with vaginal pain ever report the problem to a medical profes-

sional. And those who do speak up are often told — incorrectly — that nothing can be done and that they must learn to live with the pain. Among the many patients treated by Dr. Deborah Coady, a New York gynecologist and author, with Nancy Fish, of "Healing Painful Sex," are those told by other doctors that "It's all in your head," "You just need to relax," "There must be something wrong in your relationship" or "There's nothing physically wrong with you." One doctor even suggested that a patient tell her boyfriend to get another girlfriend.

Small wonder that so many women with vaginal pain feel isolated and ashamed and think of themselves as damaged goods, said Fish, a psychotherapist and a sexual pain patient herself. "Whatever your age, when you have sexual pain it affects your whole sense of self," she said in an interview. "Regardless of the cause, for many women it can be a life-altering condition."

She urged women not to be embarrassed and to start talking about it as a critical first step toward making effective treatment more widely available.



Only about one-quarter of women with vaginal pain ever report the problem to a medical professional, and those who do speak up are often told — incorrectly — that nothing can be done.

(Yvetta Fedorova/The New York Times)

Coady urges women with sexual pain not to give up, no matter how old they are or how many doctors may have told them that noth-

ing can be done to relieve their discomfort. It is important not to delay treatment: The longer sexual pain persists, the more likely it is to result in nerve pain and dysfunction of the pelvic floor, making the problem still harder to treat. Patience is also important. It can take weeks or even months to achieve the full benefits of effective treatment, which may involve several complementary approaches. Local treatments found to be helpful include a vaginal estrogen ring (Estring) that is replaced every three months; an estrogen tablet (Vagifem) used daily for two weeks, then twice a week thereafter; or vaginal estrogen cream (Estrace, Premarin and the like) applied daily for a few weeks, then twice a week thereafter. Used in small amounts as directed, these result in very little bodywide absorption of estrogen. Estriol, a less potent estrogen, is considered safe for women who have had an estrogen-sensitive cancer. □

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Joining the party, not crashing it

By CLAIRE CAIN MILLER

Lisa Cericola, 31, a food editor and blogger, recently held a party at her home in Brooklyn, with grilled steak and chimichurri on the table and the Red Hot Chili Peppers on the iPod. See whether you can answer a series of popular mobile Google queries — without reaching for your phone.

Soon, a debate broke out. Was the singer saying, "With burned shed it's a lovely view?" Or "With blood I shed alone with you?"

Like most people these days, Ms. Cericola knew what to do. She grabbed her BlackBerry and Googled. (The answer, from the song "Scar Tissue": "With the birds I'll share this lonely view.")

"Looking up something really fast actually adds to the conversation," Ms. Cericola said.

But if Ms. Cericola was content with how quickly she ended the debate, Google and other technology companies are not. They know they are the uninvited guests at social gatherings everywhere, and they want to ingratiate themselves with the hosts by figuring out new, less intrusive ways to join the party — as varied as voice search, Internet-connected glasses and other wearable computers, or dining room tables outfitted with screens.

Googling the answer to a question has become accepted social behavior, but "it's still somewhat awkward when you see that at a dinner party," said Amit Singhal, senior vice president in charge of search at

the company. "The key to the future is how can you make such conversations socially even more normal."

Mr. Singhal is talking about what computer scientists call ubiquitous computing or intelligence augmentation — the idea that computers will no longer be devices we turn on, but so integrated into our everyday environment that we can ask them to do things without ever lifting a finger. "It's not just a question of having screens everywhere or wearing a screen, but also this whole idea of phones and devices becoming more context-aware, so they can offer information that is highly relevant," said Pattie Maes, founder and director of the M.I.T. Media Lab fluid interfaces group, which studies how to integrate digital information into daily life.

If people are discussing the migratory patterns of monarch butterflies over dinner, for instance, phones will be able to hear that and present a map, she said. Or when you meet someone, your glasses could show you the person's LinkedIn profile and your last e-mail exchange.

"It's the integration of the digital and physical worlds so no longer are they two relatively separate spheres where you have to make the connection between them," Ms. Maes said.

Many tech companies are trying to integrate the two worlds. In Apple's new iPhone, Siri, the voice-activated assistant, can answer questions about current movies, sports and restaurants.

Microsoft is experimenting with computers that understand gestures and voice, like gloves with sensors, Bing voice search on the Xbox and gesture recognition on the Kinect. I.B.M. is teaching machines to learn and interact with people, including in hospitals. But Google is at the forefront, with vast research about what kinds of questions



people want answered — and when.

Google says its internal logs reveal that mobile searches spike during mealtimes, when people are away from their computers but still want information immediately. And people ask more questions about trivia — "How tall is the Statue of Liberty" (answer: 305 feet) and "How old is the earth" (4.54 billion years) — on mobile devices than on computers.

To make these searches easier, last month, Google introduced mobile search apps for Android phones and iPhones that let people ask questions aloud and listen to Google answer in a vaguely robotic woman's

voice. The idea is that people do not have to excuse themselves from conversation to type a query, and everyone can hear the answer, as if Google were another guest.

In May, Google introduced fact cards to answer trivia-type queries; these are answers on the search results page, so people do not have to click on a link, wait for a Web page to load and further delay the conversation. Say you urgently need to know Ryan Gosling's net worth. Search on your phone and above the links to search results, Google tells you. (It is \$50 million.)

Google Glass, eyeglass frames that let people use the Web on a tiny screen near their temples, are not yet for sale but will let people find answers without reaching into their pockets. So will other wearable computers that Google plans to experiment with, like watches.

The company is also studying screens that could be built into kitchen walls or dining room tables, to make Google a constant companion that everyone in the room could talk to.

"If we take it to the next step, which we're excited about, Google and the information I need is right here in the room with me," said Scott Huffman, the engineering director in charge of mobile search at Google. "As we're talking, we just say, 'Hey, Google, blah blah blah,' and it comes up on a screen or tells you the answer."

That does not excite everyone. "It sounds like a horrible dystopian night-

mare," said Helena Echlin, who wrote the Table Manners etiquette column at Chow, the food site.

Still, Ms. Echlin says she may change her tune when everyone is wearing computers on their faces.

Five years ago, after all, she wrote that no one should ever use a cellphone at mealtime. Now, she said, "you'd have to be a complete Luddite to ban a phone from the dinner table."

Phil Maslow, 27, who works for a pharmaceutical start-up in New York, has no problem relying on Google at his fingertips, no matter the setting.

"It's a substitute for a good memory," he said. "I get to skip a lot of anguish."

More than once he has been talking to an acquaintance from college at a party, he said, and had no idea who the person was.

"While I was talking to them, I sneakily looked them up on Facebook and then used their name to get me out of a jam," he said.

One effect of all this Google searching at social events is the resurgence of a retro kind of party, trivia night.

At a weekly trivia night run by David Smithyman, 27, in Park Slope, using cellphones is cheating.

"There's a joy to being stumped by something with your friends for a little while," Mr. Smithyman said. "Then when you finally do read out the answer, there's this palpable reaction. It's a very cool moment that doesn't really happen in other places anymore." □

Fearing 'cliff,' investors finish brutal week sideways

STEVE ROTHWELL

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Wall Street is peering over the "fiscal cliff" and feeling vertigo.

The stock market finished one of the worst weeks of the year Friday, pushing Washington to work out a deal to avoid the tax increases and government spending cuts set to take effect Jan. 1. Remarks by re-elected President Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner on the looming deadline didn't do much to cheer the market. Stocks finished barely higher for the day. Chris Bertelsen, the chief investment officer at Global Financial Private Capital of Sarasota, Florida, said he expects Congress and Obama to reach a compromise to avoid the fiscal cliff.

"But it could well be the conventional U.S. political way of doing it — the last

minute type of stuff — in which case the markets will be haunted by it until the point it happens," he said. The Dow finished up 4.07 points at 12,815.39.

The S&P advanced 2.34 points to 1,379.85, and the Nasdaq composite gained 9.29 points to 9,204.87.

For the week, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 277 points, or 2.1 percent. The Dow has fallen 795 points since hitting its closing high for the year, 13,610 on Oct. 5. The S&P fell 2.3 percent during the week, its worst weekly decline since June 1, when investor concern about the debt crisis in Europe was rising.

Stocks began their slide Wednesday in the biggest sell-off of the year after voters returned Obama, a Democratic Senate and a Republican House to power. Investors immediately turned to worrying about the cliff.

If the tax increases and

spending cuts take full effect, the U.S. will likely fall back into recession, the Congressional Budget Office said Thursday. Boehner said Friday that he

ity of balancing spending cuts with revenue increases that come from some revisions to the tax code. Stocks managed a small rally. The Dow was up

Then Obama said he would not accept any approach to federal deficit reduction that doesn't ask the wealthy to pay more in taxes.

A spokesman later said Obama would veto legislation extending tax cuts for families making \$250,000 or more.

The Dow began sliding just before Obama spoke, at 1 p.m. (1800 GMT), and had lost its gain for the day by 1:30. As they head into talks with Obama next week on the fiscal cliff, congressional leaders no doubt remember what can happen on Wall Street when investors are worried and watching Washington's every move. In September 2008, at the depths of the financial crisis, the House defeated a \$700 billion emergency rescue of the nation's financial system, sending the Dow plunging 777 points. □



Robert Nelson II of Barclays, left, and Fady Tanios of Raven Securities work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, in New York.

(AP Photo/Henny Ray Abrams)

remains unwilling to raise tax rates on upper-income earners.

But he left open the possibil-

about 30 points when Boehner started talking and about 80 points shortly after.

Europe finally turning corner on financial crisis

DAVID McHUGH

DON MELVIN

Associated Press Writers
FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — The worst of Europe's financial crisis appears to be over.

European leaders have taken steps to ease the panic that has plagued the region for three turbulent years. Financial markets are no longer in a state of emergency over Europe's high government debts and weak banks. And this gives politicians from the 17 countries that use the euro breathing room to fix their remaining problems.

Threats remain in Greece and Spain, and Europe's economy is forecast to get worse before it gets better. But an imminent breakup of the euro now seems unlikely, analysts say.

"We are probably well beyond the worst," says Holger Schmieding, chief economist at Berenberg Bank in London. He says occasional flare-ups in financial markets are likely, but "coming waves of turmoil will be less severe."

Evidence that Europe has turned a corner can be found in countries' falling

borrowing costs, rising stock markets and a slow but steady stabilization of the region's banking system:

— The interest rates investors are demanding to lend to struggling countries such as Spain and Italy have

defaults. Spain's two-year bonds carry an interest rate, or yield, of just under 3 percent — down from a July 24 peak of 6.6 percent. Italy's bond yields have dropped just as sharply.

— The Stoxx 50 index of



German Chancellor Angela Merkel, center, speaks with European Central Bank President Mario Draghi, left, and Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti during a round table meeting at a EU Summit in Brussels. The worst of Europe's financial crisis appears to be over. European leaders have taken steps to ease the panic that has plagued the region for three turbulent years.

(AP Photo/Michel Euler)

plunged — a sign that investors are less fearful about

leading European shares has surged 26 percent since

June 1, while the euro has risen from \$1.26 to \$1.29 over the same period.

— After months of withdrawals, deposits are trickling back into Greek and Spanish banks, signaling that fears of their imminent financial collapse are abating. And U.S. money market mutual funds loaned 16 percent more to eurozone banks in September.

That was the third straight monthly increase in short-term funding to European banks, and follows a 70 percent reduction since May 2011.

More proof the crisis is easing: Gatherings of European financial ministers no longer cause global stock and bond markets to gyrate with every sign of progress or a setback. As financial-market panic recedes, euro leaders have more time to try to fix the flaws in their currency union.

Among the challenges are reducing regulations and other costs for businesses in order to stimulate economic growth, and imposing more centralized authority over bud-

gets to prevent countries from ever again spending beyond their means. That's important because a major cause of the crisis was Greece's overspending during the calm years after the euro's introduction in 1999, and Italy's failure to cut the high levels of debt it joined with.

Other governments — such as Spain and Ireland — were saddled with debt piled up by banks and real estate developers during boom years.

Much of the credit for easing Europe's financial crisis goes to the European Central Bank, which has become more aggressive over the past year under the leadership of Mario Draghi.

The ECB said Sept. 6 that it was willing to buy unlimited amounts of government bonds issued by countries struggling to pay their debts.

The ECB's pledge instantly lowered borrowing costs for Spain and Italy, which earlier in the year had faced the same kinds of financial pressures that forced Ireland, Greece and Spain to seek bailouts. □



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Family property means managing for a legacy

PAUL SULLIVAN

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Some wealthy people will have to make a decision soon if they are to take advantage of the \$5.12 million gift tax exemption that is due to expire at the end of the year.

Cash is always the easiest way to take advantage of the exemption, but few wealthy people want to give that much money away lest they need it at some point. Property, on the other hand, has several virtues. Its value may be depressed now, but it is likely to go up by the time heirs get control. In addition, some wealthy people view property as a way of keeping the family together.

But giving a second home as a gift can be more complicated than people often expect, wealth advisers say.

Other types of property, like timberland, farms or buildings, are a better option, advisers say, because they generate income. Still, they also present an intriguing problem beyond how to take advantage of the tax break: How do you make sure the property is well managed for the next 50 years?

This is something the family that Mark Schleicher married into has been contemplating for 90 years. He said that his wife's family acquired 33,000 acres in southwest Florida when they lent a timber baron some money and he defaulted on the loan. The land, on the border of Sarasota and Manatee counties, was held in trust and more or less sat there.

The family, whose money came from the Joseph Schlitz Brewing Co., had hired a manager to operate it as a ranch, mostly for

running cattle, growing citrus trees and mining shells, which were used for road construction. But in the 1990s, the family decided that the land was being mismanaged and sought advice on how

in doing this project," said Schleicher, who is a board member of Schroeder-Manatee Ranch or SMR, the family holding company that owns Lakewood Ranch and other businesses on the property. "It's not

and bonds, after they are cashed in. But land is meant to keep everyone together generation after generation.

So why, then, do these plans often fail? Not surprisingly, many of

Advisors, a wealth management firm. "The more complicated the asset, the more planning; that's when you need to get the kids involved."

This particularly applies to property, whether it is a vacation home, undeveloped land or a vast planned community. It comes with the obligation to manage it, whether providing simple upkeep or making larger economic decisions.

Scott J. Cooper, managing director in the wealth structuring group at Merrill Lynch, said there had been a lot of interest in putting vacation homes in trust to take advantage of the gift tax exemption, but he said homes were not always an ideal asset, particularly when several children and spouses would use one house.

"Anyone who has ever shared a dorm room with another person probably has a point of view on this," he said. "First of all, there is the issue of, do the kids really want it? Then, you have all the challenges of a time share. When it's time to remodel the kitchen, do you go with granite countertops or Formica? That gets pretty dicey."

Lang said that even when clients navigated these issues smoothly, there was usually compromise.

More often, family members will struggle to sell their stakes in a property. □



Mark Schleicher, a board member of Schroeder-Manatee Ranch, the family holding company that owns Lakewood Ranch and other businesses on the property in Florida, at his home in Norwich, Vt. A gift of property is one way to take advantage of a \$5.12 million tax exemption that will soon expire, but shared property raises the question of its management.

(Herb Swanson/The New York Times)

to develop it, Schleicher said. Since then, they have turned a quarter of the land into Lakewood Ranch, a planned community with 7,500 homes, 4 million square feet of commercial space and amenities that include golf courses, soccer fields and a polo field.

"We're taking great pride

about squeezing the last nickel out of the thing. It's about creating a really first-class community that we can all be proud of, and it's our legacy, really, as a family."

This, of course, is the reason people leave property in trust. Cash can be spent and so can stocks

them are hatched too quickly or without any advice from the people who are going to benefit from the property but also have to manage it.

"When parents don't communicate well, that's when things don't work out," said Peter E. Lang, a managing director at HighTower

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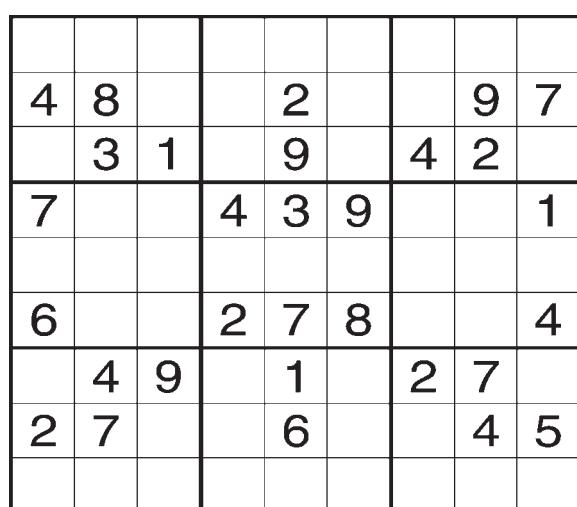
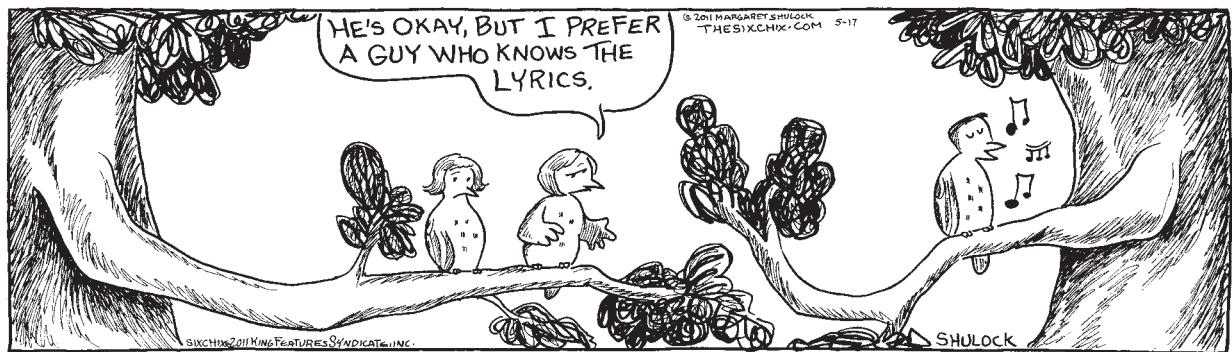
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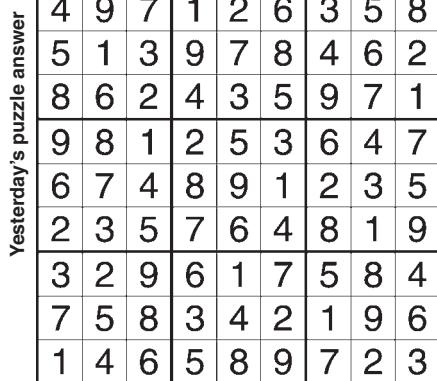


Difficulty Level ★★

5/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

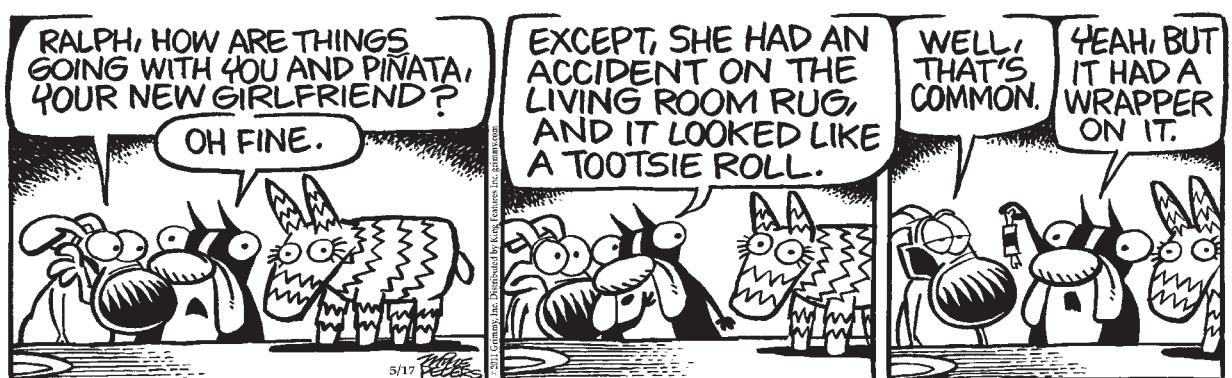
Blondie



Yesterday's puzzle answer

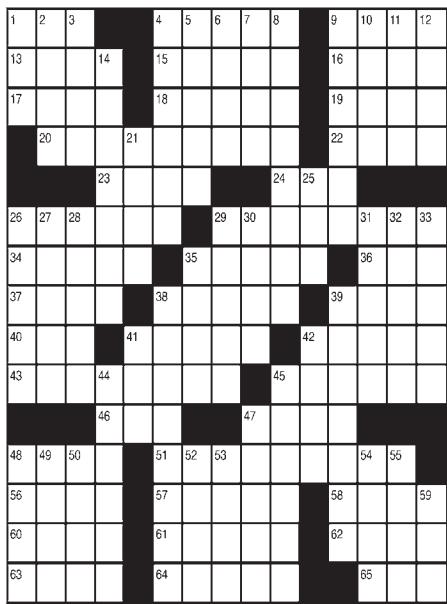
5/17

Mother Goose & Grimm



ACROSS

1 Feel sick
4 Plant-destroying bug
9 Worry
13 Pitfall
15 Paper signed by a tenant
16 Malicious look
17 Wasp nest location
18 Cries
19 Doing nothing
20 Massachusetts island
22 Schnoz
23 "That Tune"; TV show of old
24 Dustcloth
26 Church tables
29 Cherry tree flowers
34 Antlers
35 __ up; raises the spirits of
36 Two-timer
37 Correct a manuscript
38 Waist straps
39 Queue
40 Number of years lived
41 Radio knobs
42 Silly as a __
43 Hoists built over oil wells
45 Race participant
46 Pen contents
47 Ping-__; table tennis
48 Bath powder
51 Offices for official envoys
56 Salt Lake City's state
57 Pot __; cut of beef
58 California wine-growing valley
60 Ulna or fibula
61 Cream of the crop
62 Smile
63 Ridicules
64 Talk out of
65 Pigpen



5/17/11

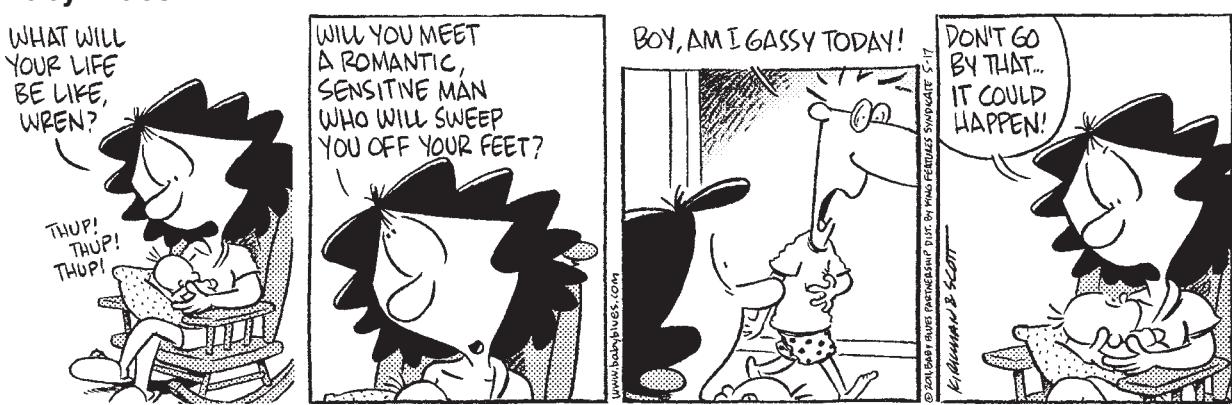
Monday's Puzzle Solved

P	A	L	S	O	F	F	E	R	S	W	I	G
A	N	E	W	L	I	B	R	A	T	I	R	E
L	O	G	O	I	L	I	A	D	U	N	I	T
E	N	S	L	A	V	E	S	A	D	N	E	S
F	A	M	E	D	H	A	D	M	E	C	C	A
I	R	O	N	S	I	N	M	E	D	A	H	R
A	G	O	M	I	S	D	E	E	B	A	H	A
T	O	S	S	E	F	A	N	I	C	N	I	C
S	N	E	E	R	C	U	T	R	R	A	N	K
R	I	V	A	L	M	A	R					
C	H	A	P	T	E	R	B	E	G	R	I	M
R	O	L	E	G	A	B	A	D	A	M		
A	M	E	N	A	F	O	T	T	E	R		
B	E	S	T	N	E	W	T	S	E	A		

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38 Quarreled
39 Yen
40 Noise
41 Pistols
42 Wealth
43 List of students
44 Stickum
45 Large brass instrument
46 Large brass instrument
47 Bird's bill
48 Large brass instrument
49 Perched upon
50 Path
51 Beauty spot
52 Fishing lure
53 Attentively
54 All __; listening
55 Barbecue rod
56 Day now; soon

Baby Blues



Zits



Remote cameras are great for gardeners

DEAN FOSDICK
Associated Press

Trail cameras are becoming as popular with gardeners and farmers as they are with hunters, who use them to monitor animal behavior.

These remotely operated devices can detect anything moving through orchards or fields in daylight or darkness, good weather or bad.

"The nature market is where our cameras were popular in the beginning, especially in Europe and the U.K.," said Darin Stephens, product manager for Bushnell (Corp.) Trail Cameras. "We're talking wildlife observers, scientists and backyard naturalists.

"But they're also being purchased now by people who have just been planting things in their patch. They're seeing some incredible stuff."

That can include surprise wildlife species, such as mountain lions in territory where none were known to exist, or deer eating their fill in suburban vegetable beds.

Sometimes, the trail cams also record uninvited guests pilfering melons from gardens or siphon-

ing gasoline from farm fuel tanks.

"A friend of mine has his set up to watch coyotes and other predators to safeguard his cattle herd," said Robert Good,



Featured is the Bushnell No. 67 motion sensitive trail camera, that produces still, time-lapse or video images, and is remotely operated by infrared sensors and powered by batteries lasting up to a year.

a wildlife watcher from rural New Market, Virginia. "I use mine primarily to see what's out there that's not supposed to be there."

Unlike pocket cameras, motion-sensitive trail cams are remotely operated by infrared sensors and powered by batteries lasting up to a year. The small, weatherproof units come in cases that can be attached to fence posts, utility poles

and trees, or mounted a few feet above the ground near trails and ponds. Images can be still, time-lapse or video, and many of the devices include audio. Newer models can transmit

(Associated Press)

real-time images directly into computers. Prices vary from around \$100 to more than \$400. □

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Mark Wahlberg to star in next 'Transformers' film

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Mark Wahlberg, roll out.

"Transformers" director Michael Bay says the 41-year-old actor will star in the franchise's fourth film.

Bay called Wahlberg the "perfect guy to re-invigorate the franchise and carry on the Transformers' legacy" in a post on his blog Thursday. He previously squashed rumors that Wahlberg was joining the film franchise about warring robots.

Bay worked with Wahlberg on his upcoming film, "Pain and Gain."

"Transformers 4" is scheduled to be released by Paramount Pictures on June 27, 2014.

Bay has said the next film will take a new direction in the series. The first three movies starred Shia LaBeouf and featured Pe-



In this June 21, 2012 file photo, cast member Mark Wahlberg arrives at the premiere for "Ted," in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

ter Cullen as the voice of Autobot general Optimus Prime.

The third "Transformers" film, "Dark of the Moon," was the second highest-grossing film of 2011. □

'Philly sound' R&B singer Major Harris, dies at 65

MICHAEL FELBERBAUM

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Virginia (AP)

— Major Harris, a former member of the "Philadelphia sound" soul group the Delfonics and singer of the 1975 hit "Love Won't Let Me Wait," has died.

His sister Catherine Thomas told The Associated Press the 65-year-old passed away Friday from congestive heart and lung failure. The Richmond, Virginia native made the rounds with several music groups in the 1960s. □

Miley Cyrus talks music, movie and marriage

SANDY COHEN

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Miley Cyrus is working hard to finish her new album so she can take time off to enjoy being engaged.

The 19-year-old entertainer plans to marry "Hunger Games" star Liam Hemsworth. They announced their engagement in June but haven't revealed their wedding date.

"I am married in my heart and my mind. I do everything that I would be if I had the paper, but I want to take the time to actually enjoy it," Cyrus said.

"My most important thing right now is ... I want people to hear what I want to say and get my record out, so when there is a time that I can take some time off, I'll feel like I accomplished my stuff," she said.

"Then I can take a break and just enjoy being married for a little while."

Until then, Cyrus is busy working, promoting her film "So Undercover," due in February, and wrapping up her album, though no title or release date have been announced. Cyrus says she doesn't stray too far from



In this Sept. 6, 2012 file photo, Miley Cyrus attends the MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

her country roots on the new record, but the songs are more hip-hop inspired.

"A lot of the beats are produced hip-hop beats," she said, "but the vocal is very raw and my voice is kind of on top of all the tracks, which is what I wanted."

Cyrus said she is working with producer Pharrell Williams and "a lot of hip-hop producers that are actually from the South, because I

wanted more of that dirty-South vibe, a little ATL in there."

While she loves performing on camera, music matters most to Cyrus. "I want people to remember me for things that are great," she said. "Much bigger than the comedies that I do, but more about the music that I write and the songs that you leave for the world to think about." □

Billboard honors Lady Antebellum for 1st tour

CHRIS TALBOTT
AP Music Writer

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)

— When they first hit the road as an opening act the members of Lady Antebellum rarely wasted their downtime, quizzing stars like Kenny Chesney and Keith Urban and their crews on the intricacies of a successful arena tour. They employed everything they learned on their first headlining tour this year, selling more than a million tickets and visiting 11 countries. That success on the Own The Night tour earned them the breakthrough award at the 2012 Billboard Touring Awards on Thursday night in New York City. "I think for us, once you've found out ... who had won it the previous two years with Lady Gaga and Jason

Aldean, I think it definitely made it even mean a little bit more," Lady A's Charles Kelley said in a phone interview. "Hopefully, we're going to be in that company of big touring acts."

The Nashville trio wasn't able to make it to New York for the awards because a storm left travel too dangerous. Chesney made the trip, though, and accepted two awards at the Roosevelt Hotel: the Road Warrior award and the top package tour. The Road Warrior honor is bestowed on an artist who shows uncommon work ethic, professionalism and artistic integrity on the road. Chesney won his eighth package award for his Brothers of the Sun stadium tour with Tim McGraw, Grace Potter & The Nocturn-



Dave Haywood, from left, Charles Kelley and Hillary Scott, of Lady Antebellum, perform onstage at the 46th Annual Country Music Awards at the Bridgestone Arena on Thursday, Nov. 1, 2012, in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

nals and Jake Owen. Kelley said Lady Antebellum, which will release a documentary about the tour on Dec. 4, paid close attention while on the road

commitment required to pull it off.

"I think that's one thing that we've learned was you've got to invest in the show," Kelley said. "When you're sitting there and you're putting it together and you're seeing those costs pile up, and you're going, 'OK, I'd love to have a lift here to bring up the piano,' well, that's going to cost you this much," Kelley said. "You've got to make those decisions. For us, we wanted to come out swinging on this first tour. Hopefully, we've set the bar for future tours."

Other awards were given to Roger Waters (top tour), Bruce Springsteen (top draw), Neil Diamond (Legend of Live) and Lady Gaga (Eventful fan's choice). □

Ashley Judd doesn't rule out run for U.S. Senate

ROGER ALFORD

Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Kentucky (AP)

— Actress Ashley Judd isn't ruling out a run for U.S. Senate in Kentucky.

The former Kentuckian is an active supporter of Tennessee Democrats. She said in a statement Friday that she's honored to be mentioned as a potential candidate, but she sidestepped the question of whether she would get into the race.

"I cherish Kentucky, heart and soul, and while I'm very honored by the consideration, we have just finished an election, so let's focus on coming together to keep moving America's families, and especially our kids, forward," she said.

Judd lives in Tennessee and would have to re-establish a residence in Kentucky before she could challenge Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell in his 2014 re-election bid.

No Democrats have stepped forward to challenge McConnell, a political powerhouse who already has \$6.8 million in the bank for his re-election.

In 2008, McConnell won re-election to a fifth term and became Kentucky's



In a Tuesday, April 10, 2012 file photo, cast member Ashley Judd arrives at a preview screening for an upcoming episode of the ABC television series "Missing" in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

longest serving senator. McConnell spent some \$20 million on his last election, beating Democrat Bruce Lunsford, a wealthy Kentucky businessman, by 6 percentage points.

"Sen. McConnell and his wife are big fans of Ashley Judd's movies and appreciate her energy, especially when it comes to bringing young people into the political process," said McConnell campaign manager Jesse Benton. He held his criticism for those who are pushing her candidacy. □

Kenneth Branagh knighted by Queen Elizabeth II

LONDON (AP) — Kenneth Branagh, who has played royalty on stage and screen, has been made a real-life knight by Queen Elizabeth II.

The British actor said he was pleased to be honored in the year of the queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics. He said that "it's been a hell of a year for the U.K. and I feel very honored to be a tiny part of it."

Belfast-born Branagh was knighted at a Buckingham Palace ceremony Friday for services to drama and for his charity work in Northern Ireland.

Best known as a Shakespearean actor and as TV detective "Wallander," Branagh joins the pantheon of theatrical knights alongside the late Sir Laurence Olivier — whom Branagh



British actor Kenneth Branagh poses with his award after receiving a knighthood from Britain's Queen Elizabeth II at an investiture ceremony at Buckingham Palace, central London, Friday, Nov. 9, 2012.

Associated Press

played in "My Week With Marilyn."

He has also directed films including "Henry V." □



Roger Waters, left, performs with injured service members at the 6th Annual Stand Up For Heroes benefit concert on Thursday, Nov. 8, 2012 in New York.

Associated Press

Roger Waters plays with band of wounded veterans

JOHN CARUCCI

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Roger Waters honored wounded veterans in New York by performing with them at the annual Stand Up for Heroes benefit, Thursday night.

The founding member of Pink Floyd took to the stage of the Beacon Theater with 14 wounded soldiers he met recently at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. He rehearsed with them at the hospital, and for the past few days in New York.

The event benefited the Bob Woodruff Foundation, which helps returning veterans and their families, and featured Waters, Bruce Springsteen, Ricky Gervais, Robin Williams, and others. Before the show, Waters chatted with veterans and called the experience "fantastic." He says he's "looking forward to pulling for the rest of these guys with their comrades" during the healing process. He says that he shares "enormous empathy with the men."

"I lost my grandfather in 1916 and my father in 1944, so I've been around the sense of loss and what loss from war can do to people," Waters said.

"I never talk about the

politics because it's not relevant to me. I'm not interested in it," he said. "What I am interested in is the burdens these guys bear and would never question motive or even dream of talking about any of the politics."

He added: "If any of us have a responsibility in our lives it is to tear down the walls of indifference and miscommunication between ourselves and our fellow men."

Waters said he rehearsed with many of the soldiers at the hospital in between their medical procedures. Before the show, he walked the red carpet with Staff Sgt. Robert Henline, who was not in the band. In 2007, Henline was the sole survivor of a roadside bombing north of Baghdad. As a result, he suffered burns over 38 percent of his body and his head was burned to the skull.

Henline, who fought for his life after the attack, has endured more than 40 surgeries.

Still, he maintains a sense of humor. On the open red carpet on a chilly night, Waters pushed closer to Henline for warmth.

"Get next to the burn guy. I'm good. I'm heated up," Henline joked.

No surprise. The retired sol-



The Party Of Work



DAVID BROOKS
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The American colonies were first settled by Protestant dissenters. These were people who refused to submit to the established religious authorities. They sought personal relationships with God. They moved to the frontier when life got too confining. They created an American creed, built, as the sociologist Seymour Martin Lipset put it, around liberty, individualism, equal opportunity, populism and laissez-faire. This creed shaped America and evolved with the decades. Starting in the mid-20th century, there was a Southern and Western version of it, formed by ranching Republicans like Barry Goldwater, Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush. Their version drew on the traditional tenets: ordinary people are capable of greatness; individuals have the power to shape their destinies; they should be given maximum freedom to do so.

This is not an Ayn Randian, radically individualistic belief system. Republicans in this mold place tremendous importance on churches, charities and families – on the sort of pastoral work Mitt Romney does and the sort of community groups Rep. Paul Ryan celebrated in a speech at Cleveland State University last month.

But this worldview is innately suspicious of government. Its adherents generally believe in the equation that more government equals less individual and civic vitality. Growing beyond proper limits, government saps initiative, sucks resources, breeds a sense of entitlement and imposes a stifling uniformity on the diverse webs of local activity. During the 2012 campaign, Republicans kept circling back to the spot where government expansion threatens personal initiative: you didn't build that; makers versus takers; the supposed dependency of the 47 percent. Again and again, Republicans argued that the vital essence of the country is threatened by overweening government.

These economic values played well in places with a lot of Protestant dissenters and their cultural heirs. They struck chords with people whose imaginations are inspired by the frontier experience. But, each year, there are more Americans whose cultural roots lie elsewhere. Each year, there are more people from different cultures, with different attitudes toward authority, different attitudes about individual-

ism, different ideas about what makes people enterprising. More important, people in these groups are facing problems not captured by the fundamental Republican equation: more government (EQUAL) less vitality.

The Pew Research Center does excellent research on Asian-American and Hispanic values. Two findings jump out. First, people in these groups have an awesome commitment to work. By most measures, members of these groups value industriousness more than whites. Second, they are also tremendously appreciative of government. In survey after survey, they embrace the idea that some government programs can incite hard work, not undermine it; enhance opportunity, not crush it.

Moreover, when they look at the things that undermine the work ethic and threaten their chances to succeed, it's often not government. It's a modern economy in which you can work more productively, but your wages still don't rise. It's a bloated financial sector that just sent the world into turmoil. It's a university system that is indispensable but unaffordable. It's chaotic neighborhoods that can't be cured by withdrawing government programs.

For these people, the Republican equation is irrelevant. When they hear Romney talk abstractly about Big Government vs. Small Government, they think: He doesn't get me or people like me.

Overall, Republicans have lost the popular vote in five out of the six post-Cold-War elections because large parts of the country have moved on. The basic Republican framing no longer resonates.

Some Republicans argue that they can win over these rising groups with a better immigration policy. That's necessary but insufficient. The real problem is economic values.

If I were given a few minutes with the Republican billionaires, I'd say: spend less money on marketing and more on product development. Spend less on super PACs and more on research. Find people who can shift the debate away from the abstract frameworks – like Big Government vs. Small Government. Find people who can go out with notebooks and study specific, grounded everyday problems: What exactly does it take these days to rise? What exactly happens to the ambitious kid in Akron at each stage of life in this new economy? What are the best ways to rouse ambition and open fields of opportunity?

Don't get hung up on whether the federal government is 20 percent or 22 percent of GDP. Let Democrats be the party of security, defending the 20th-century welfare state. Be the party that celebrates work and inflames enterprise. Use any tool, public or private, to help people transform their lives. □



Let's Not Make A Deal



PAUL KRUGMAN
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To say the obvious: Democrats won an amazing victory. Not only did they hold the White House despite a still-troubled economy, in a year when their Senate majority was supposed to be doomed, they actually added seats. Nor was that all: They scored major gains in the states. Most notably, California – long a poster child for the political dysfunction that comes when nothing can get done without a legislative supermajority – not only voted for much-needed tax increases, but elected, you guessed it, a Democratic supermajority.

But one goal eluded the victors. Even though preliminary estimates suggest that Democrats received somewhat more votes than Republicans in congressional elections, the GOP retains solid control of the House thanks to extreme gerrymandering by courts and Republican-controlled state governments. And Rep. John Boehner, the speaker of the House, wasted no time in declaring that his party remains as intransigent as ever, utterly opposed to any rise in tax rates even as it whines about the size of the deficit.

So President Barack Obama has to make a decision, almost immediately, about how to deal with continuing Republican obstruction. How far should he go in accommodating the GOP's demands?

My answer is, not far at all.

Obama should hang tough, declaring himself willing, if necessary, to hold his ground even at the cost of letting his opponents inflict damage on a still-shaky economy. And this is definitely no time to negotiate a "grand bargain" on the budget that snatches defeat from the jaws of victory.

In saying this, I don't mean to minimize the very real economic dangers posed by the so-called fiscal cliff that is looming at the end of this year if the two parties can't reach a deal. Both the Bush-era tax cuts and the Obama administration's payroll tax cut are set to expire, even as automatic spending cuts in defense and elsewhere kick in thanks to the deal struck after the 2011 confrontation over the debt ceiling. And the looming combination of tax increases and spending cuts looks easily large enough to push America back into recession.

Nobody wants to see that happen. Yet it may happen all the same, and Obama has to be willing to let it happen if necessary.

Why? Because Republicans are trying, for the third time since he took office, to use economic blackmail to achieve a goal they lack the votes to achieve through the normal legislative process. In particular, they want to extend the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy, even though the nation can't afford to make those tax cuts permanent and the public believes that taxes on the rich should go up – and they're threatening to block any deal on anything else unless they get their way. So they are, in effect, threatening to tank the economy unless their demands are met.

Obama essentially surrendered in the face of similar tactics at the end of 2010, extending low taxes on the rich for two more years. He made significant concessions again in 2011, when Republicans threatened to create financial chaos by refusing to

raise the debt ceiling. And the current potential crisis is the legacy of those past concessions. Well, this has to stop – unless we want hostage-taking, the threat of making the nation ungovernable, to become a standard part of our political process.

So what should he do? Just say no and go over the cliff if necessary.

It's worth pointing out that the fiscal cliff isn't really a cliff. It's not like the debt-ceiling confrontation, where terrible things might well have happened right away if the deadline had been missed. This time, nothing very bad will happen to the economy if agreement isn't reached until a few weeks or even a few months into 2013. So there's time to bargain.

More important, however, is the point that a stalemate would hurt Republican backers, corporate donors in particular, every bit as much as it hurt the rest of the country. As the risk of severe economic damage grew, Republicans would face intense pressure to cut a deal after all.

Meanwhile, the president is in a far stronger position than in previous confrontations. I don't place much stock in talk of "mandates," but Obama did win re-election with a populist campaign, so he can plausibly claim that Republicans are defying the will of the American people. And he just won his big election and is, therefore, far better placed than before to weather any political blowback from economic troubles – especially when it would be so obvious that these troubles were being deliberately inflicted by the GOP in a last-ditch attempt to defend the privileges of the 1 percent.

Most of all, standing up to hostage-taking is the right thing to do for the health of America's political system.

So stand your ground, Mr. President, and don't give in to threats. No deal is better than a bad deal. □

Young Afghan lives being lost in the fog of war

ROD NORDLAND

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KABUL, Afghanistan – These days, Abdul Farhad tries to sleep with the lights on in his bedroom and his eyes wide open, because as soon as he closes them he is back in his shop in central Kabul where the explosion happened.

He is sitting behind the desk in his office, a small room with a floor-to-ceiling plate-glass front wall, with a view he says he will never forget. The usual street children are clustered in front of his car rental shop, in the heart of the capital's military and diplomatic quarter. Khorshid, 15, dressed, as always, in a brightly colored tunic over prim trousers, is a skateboarding sensation who dreams of winning the girls' world championship one day.

Her younger sister, Parwana, 11, has even bigger dreams, to become a doctor. Somewhere nearby is their big-eyed little sister Mursal, who is 7 and speaks English well enough to soften the hearts of passing GIs, and separate them from "just one dollar, mister."

With them are their friends Nawab, 17; Mohammad Eesa, 16; Elyas, 15; and Nawal, 17 – all skateboarders and fellow pavement hustlers. This is their territory, and they come here every day after school and on public holidays like the one Sept. 8, which honored an assassinated anti-Taliban leader. They sell scarves, or stale chewing gum, from sacks that double as school bags, but mostly they beg. As Farhad watches idly, a stranger enters the frame with a knapsack on his back.

Farhad reckons he is 15 or 16. The children swarm the stranger, worried he is competition and trying to see what he is carrying.

The knapsack explodes.

Farhad found himself on the floor behind his desk, his ears ringing. He was bleeding in several places, but not seriously wounded. He gave a prayer of thanks that a salesman had persuaded him to cover the inside of the windows with Mylar, a film that prevents

glass from shattering into lethal shards.

"Otherwise," he said, "I would have been a dead man for sure." The children were not as lucky. The suicide bombing killed four of them, as well as three adults.

Elyas, who had wandered far enough away to save his life, lay in the street, wounded. Looking around at a landscape of blood and bodies, he had a sudden, terrible realization.

Farhad, 24, does not remember the moment of the explosion.

On the floor of his shop on Ariana Road, he marveled that he was not dead. The bomber had been just 10 yards away.

"All over the floor in here, there were hands and feet and pieces of flesh," he recalled several days later. He walked outside to see so many body parts in a scene of such carnage that it was impossible to tell who was

the Spanish and Italian, the American, and ISAF headquarters, I am sure they all had ambulances, but not one ambulance came to help these guys," Farhad said.

The headquarters of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force was on the other side of Ariana Road, 100 yards away.

Most of the victims were beyond help. Police officers cleaned up the scene and delivered the body parts to

be seven dead and four wounded, one of them gravely.

At the edge of the blast scene, Mursal stood screaming and crying, but unhurt. She wanted to look for her sisters Khorshid and Parwana, but the police would not let her. Someone with a cellphone called her mother, and she cried into the phone that she could not find her sisters.

Khorshid had worked part time at a charity called Skateistan, teaching other kids how to skateboard. The program uses skateboarding as a way to try to draw Kabul's street children to school and away from the dangerous streets.

It was a co-worker from Skateistan who found Khorshid's body in the morgue at the Emergency Surgical Center for War Victims, and called her mother, Bibi Hawa, with the news.

Their family is among the poorest of the poor, and so their house is among the highest of the high, at the top of a steep hill – a climb up a 45-degree slope to a three-room concrete hut with no electricity, sewerage or water.

Hawa is not a traditional Afghan wife, though she had six daughters and two sons. She works as a police officer, posted far away from the city. Her husband, she says matter-of-factly, "is a heroin addict."

Her children spent most of their time on the streets, alone, trudging for hours on foot and riding in minibuses to and from school and work, but always meeting up with her at dark high on the hill for the family supper. The children made more money than she did, between Khorshid's skateboard teaching and their street begging.

First was Khorshid, whose name means "sun." She was buried the same day.

"We thought Parwana was frightened and hiding somewhere, but then at night we got a call," Hawa said. The body of Parwana, whose name means "butterfly," was found in another hospital's morgue, along with Hawa's son-in-law Assad, 22. □



Bibi Hawa, who lost two daughters in a suicide bombing, with her surviving children, from left, Behishta, 5, Mursal, 7, and Faisal, 6, at their home in Kabul, Afghanistan. Indiscriminate suicide bombings are robbing Afghanistan's children of their dreams.

(Mauricio Lima/The New York Times)

"None of my friends my age are alive," he said. "I'm all alone."

Once again, innocent children were among the victims of the most indiscriminate of weapons. As police and military targets have hardened their defenses since the insurgents first began using large numbers of suicide bombers in 2006, more and more of the victims have been civilian bystanders, almost always including children. Afghanistan has one of the world's highest population growth rates, and children are thick on the ground in any public place. According to human rights researchers, 865 civilians were killed or wounded in suicide or other bombings in the first eight months of this year, 38 percent of them children.

who.

His landlord, Latifullah, had been next door, fixing the metal gate in the wall around his home. Now he was dead. Latifullah's widow, who has three young children to support in a society where it is hard for women to find work, was wailing.

"In our society, a woman without a husband or brothers is a dead woman," Farhad said. "Now she has no one."

"He was conscious and I felt he was strong, and if only an ambulance came he might have survived," Farhad said.

But no ambulance came. Sardar died in the back of a police car that had been pressed into service to take him to a hospital. "All those embassies nearby,

two hospitals.

The Taliban issued a statement saying they had targeted a CIA safe house; they denied that the bomber had been a youth. Yet the only house anywhere nearby, other than Farhad's little shop, was Latifullah's house, where his widow could be heard screaming "Death to America" in her anguish.

"Everyone knows where that CIA safe house is," said Lt. Col. Waisullah Taj, the police chief of Kabul's District 10. "That is not the place. This incident proved their stupidity. They could have attacked the embassy or the ISAF gate or the police, instead they just killed four little beggars."

It took several days to discern who lived and who died. The final tally would